GO AND WITNESS

A Journey Through the Acts of the Apostles

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

— Acts 1:8 —

Daily Devotional · Journey 3

Acts Chapters 1 – 12

Back To Christ Ministry · 2025

Table of Contents

Information for the User....4
Why Acts of the Apostles?....4
What's Inside This Devotional?....4
Purpose of This Devotional....5
How to Use This Devotional in Daily Life....5
For the Best Results....6
Possible Negative Side Effects....6
Possible Positive Side Effects....6
About This Daily Devotional....6
Final Encouragement....7
A Personal Note from the Author....7
Week 1 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 1:1–11....9
Week 1 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 1:1–11....12
Week 1 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 1:12–26....15
Week 1 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 1:12–26....18
Week 1 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 2:1–21....21
Week 1 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 2:1–21....25
Week 1 - Day 7 - Sunday....29
Week 2 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 2:22–47....31
Week 2 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 2:22–47....35
Week 2 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 3:1–10....39
Week 2 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 3:1–10....42
Week 2 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 3:11–26....45
Week 2 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 3:11–26....49
Week 2 - Day 7 - Sunday....52
Week 3 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 4:1–22....54
Week 3 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 4:1–22....58
Week 3 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 4:23–37....62
Week 3 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 4:23–37....65
Week 3 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 5:1–16....68
Week 3 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 5:1–16....71
Week 3 - Day 7 - Sunday....74
Week 4 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 5:17–42....76
Week 4 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 5:17–42....79
Week 4 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 6:1–15....82
Week 4 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 6:1–15....85
Week 4 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 7:1–34....88
Week 4 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 7:1–34....91
Week 4 - Day 7 - Sunday....94
Week 5 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 7:35–60....96
Week 5 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 7:35–60....99

Week 5 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 8:1–25..... 102
Week 5 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 8:1–25..... 105
Week 5 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 8:26–40..... 108
Week 5 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 8:26–40..... 111
Week 5 - Day 7 - Sunday..... 114
Week 6 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 9:1–19..... 116
Week 6 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 9:1–19..... 119
Week 6 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 9:20–43..... 122
Week 6 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 9:20–43..... 125
Week 6 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 10:1–23..... 129
Week 6 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 10:1–23..... 132
Week 6 - Day 7 - Sunday..... 135
Week 7 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 10:24–48..... 137
Week 7 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 10:24–48..... 140
Week 7 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 11:1–30..... 143
Week 7 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 11:1–30..... 147
Week 7 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 12:1–25..... 150
Week 7 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 12:1–25..... 153
Week 7 - Day 7 - Sunday..... 157

Information for the User

Please read carefully before you begin, as it contains important spiritual guidance for your journey.

Why Acts of the Apostles?

The Acts of the Apostles continues the journey begun in the Gospel of John, moving from ***Come And See*** to ***Go And Witness***. Having first been invited to know Christ personally and grow in relationship with Him, we are now called to take part in His mission. This call to Go And Witness is the Great Commission given by Christ, not as a task to be fulfilled by human strength, but as a response flowing from our love for Him and the relationship we have built.

Acts of the Apostles reveals that the mission of Jesus did not end with His resurrection, but continues through believers who are filled and led by the Holy Spirit. Just as the apostles were empowered to live with boldness, unity, and faith, we too are invited to be filled with the Holy Spirit and guided by Him in every step. This book is not merely a record of the early church, but a living example of how God works through ordinary lives surrendered to Him. It calls us to depend on His Spirit, and to witness Christ faithfully wherever and however He leads us.

What's Inside This Devotional?

Journey 3 in the Acts of the Apostles (chapters 1 to 12) traces the birth and growth of the early church through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, from Pentecost to the bold witness of the apostles amid challenges and persecution. It invites you to see how God works through ordinary believers and to embrace your own calling to live as a Spirit-led witness of Christ.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="14">An Outline and Timeline of</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="14">The Acts of the Apostles Chapters 1 - 12</td></tr>
<tr><td>Apostle's Commisson</td><td>Jesus's Promise To Return Ascension</td><td>Matthias Chosen</td><td>Holy Spirit Given, Peter Preaches & Assembly Grows to 3000</td><td>Persecution. Preaching Jesus Forbidden</td><td>Jewish Assembly Shares All Things</td><td>Apostolic Miracles</td><td>Seven Chosen</td><td>Stephen Killed</td><td>Philip the Evangelist and the Ethiopian</td><td>Saul Meets Jesus on the Damascus Road</td><td>Ananias Lays Hands on Saul, Receives the Holy Spirit, Baptised and Begins to Preach</td><td>Peter Performs Miracle</td><td>Cornelius: Gentiles Can Come into the Jewish Fold</td><td>James Killed, Peter Arrested by Herod. Peter Delivered</td><td>Herod Dies in Caesarea</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">The First Jewsih Assembly</td><td colspan="5">Persecution of the Assembly</td><td colspan="3">Spread of the Word, Conversion of Saul</td><td colspan="3">The Ministry of Peter</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">1:1 - 3:26</td><td colspan="5">4:1 - 8:3</td><td colspan="3">8:4 - 9:31</td><td colspan="3">9:32 - 12:25</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">A.D. 33</td><td colspan="5">A.D. 34</td><td colspan="3">A.D. 34 - 35</td><td colspan="3">A.D. 38 - 44</td></tr>
</table>

Purpose of This Devotional

What naturally flows from a deep and personal relationship with Christ? It is a life that reflects Him. When we truly know Him, our love for Him moves us to live differently, to share the good news and the new life we have received in Him.

This devotional is designed to help you step into that calling. It is not about striving in your own strength, but about learning to depend on God daily. As you meditate on the Acts of the Apostles, you are invited to ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, to strengthen you in your weakness, and to lead you into a life of bold and faithful witness.

Each section is spread across **two days**, guiding you gently from reading to reflection, from understanding to personal encounter.Through each section, you are encouraged to seek His guidance in all things, to experience the freedom He gives from sin and the struggles of this world, and to reflect His love in your everyday life. This is a journey of living out your faith, where your words and actions become a testimony of Christ to others.

How to Use This Devotional in Daily Life

Treat this journey as your daily appointment with the Lord. Find a quiet place away from noise and distractions where you can be still before God, coming with a heart ready to receive rather than striving to perform.

As you spend this time, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh. Ask Him to strengthen you, guide your thoughts, and lead you in every step of your day. Let your Bible be open, your mind attentive, and your spirit surrendered, allowing Him to shape your heart and actions.

This is not only a time to reflect, but a time to be equipped. As you meditate, seek His help to produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life and to guide you in living as a witness of Christ. Carry this presence into your daily life, trusting Him to lead you in what to say, how to act, and where to serve.

For the Best Results

Dedicate at least **30 minutes a day**. Follow each section prayerfully and patiently. This devotional is designed for *depth*, not speed. Repetition is not routine, it is revelation. When you revisit the same passage, you allow the Word to sink deeper, transforming your heart layer by layer.

Possible Negative Side Effects

As you step into living out your calling, be mindful of a few subtle challenges that can arise along the way.

- You may begin to rely on your own strength or develop spiritual pride, forgetting that it is the Holy Spirit who empowers every good work.
- You may face spiritual resistance or discouragement as you seek to live faithfully, which can weaken your confidence if you are not rooted in Him.
- At times, you may move ahead with your own plans without waiting for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you find yourself in any of these places, return to the Lord. He is your constant help and source of strength. Humble yourself before Him, seek His presence again, and allow Him to lead you.

Remember, it is not by your ability, but by His Spirit that you are able to stand, grow, and faithfully witness Christ.

Possible Positive Side Effects

- You may become eager and start reading ahead (which is fine but pace yourself).
- You may feel deep peace, joy, and renewed faith as you spend time with God.
- You may begin to hear His voice more clearly and sense His presence more closely.

About This Daily Devotional

This devotional is available in electronic format as a PDF file, making it easy to access on a laptop, tablet, or mobile device for personal meditation wherever you are. For those who prefer a printed copy, you are free to print locally at no cost.

To access the electronic version, please visit:
https://sites.google.com/view/back-to-christ-ministry

On the website, you will find a section titled "Resources," where three devotionals and four gospel tracts are currently available. You may read them online or download them to your device. Additional resources are being developed and will be added in due course.

Whether you choose the electronic or printed version, this devotional is designed to accompany you on your journey of faith, helping you pause, reflect, and encounter the presence of God in your everyday life.

"Freely you have received; freely give." — Matthew 10:8

Final Encouragement

Remember, this is not just a reading plan, it is a **journey of the heart**. Walk through it slowly, honestly, and prayerfully. Jesus is not a distant figure from history, He is your living Saviour, waiting to meet you in every page, every prayer, every pause.

“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” (*James 4:8*)

A Personal Note from the Author

As I began preparing these devotional notes, I sensed a deep conviction that this work was meant for those who are longing for a life changing experience through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Like the servants at the wedding at Cana who filled the stone jars with water in obedience to Jesus, I see myself simply as one who has done what He asked. The work itself is His. Those who receive it and experience it will discover the richness and fullness that only He can bring.

This devotional was born out of quiet prayer, honest reflection, and the grace of God. It was shaped not by human wisdom, but through the gentle guidance of the Holy Spirit. I take no credit for what has come together. All glory belongs to our Heavenly Father, who in His mercy chooses to work through simple and willing hearts.

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May this journey through the Acts of the Apostles lead you into a deeper and more living relationship with Christ. May the Holy Spirit dwell richly within you, filling your heart and mind, guiding you with divine wisdom, and strengthening you in every step of your walk. May He transform your life from within, shaping your thoughts, words, and actions, and leading you to live with boldness, faith, and obedience. As you grow in Him, may your life become a true reflection of Christ, and a faithful witness to His truth, love, and power in all that you do.

In Christ's love,
Back to Christ Ministry.

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Week 1 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 1:1–11

Theme: The Ascended Lord and the Promise of Power

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a few quiet moments to come before the Lord. Set aside every distraction and invite the Holy Spirit to calm your mind and open your heart. Today's passage marks the beginning of the book of Acts, where the risen Jesus prepares His disciples for the mission ahead. This is a sacred transition from His earthly ministry to the work that will continue through His followers. Ask the Lord to help you see His glory, His promises, and your calling as His witness in the world.

Introduction & Background

Acts begins as a continuation of the account of Jesus' life and ministry. After His resurrection, Jesus did not immediately ascend to heaven. Instead, He spent forty days appearing to His disciples, giving them convincing proof that He was alive and teaching them about the Kingdom of God. This period was a time of reassurance, instruction, and spiritual preparation.

The disciples were still trying to understand God's plan. They expected an earthly restoration of Israel, but Jesus redirected their focus toward a greater mission, the spread of the gospel to all nations. Before leaving them, He promised the Holy Spirit, who would empower them to carry forward His work.

The ascension of Jesus is not an ending but a beginning. It marks His exaltation and the launching of the Church's mission. The same Jesus who ascended in glory will one day return, and until then, His followers are called to live as faithful witnesses.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly and prayerfully read **Acts 1:1–11**. Picture the risen Jesus speaking with His disciples, teaching them with patience and love. Imagine the Mount of Olives, the final moments of His earthly presence, and the awe of the disciples as He is lifted into heaven. As you read, ask yourself: What is Jesus teaching me about His mission, His promises, and my role as His witness?

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–3:** Luke recalls his earlier account and emphasizes that Jesus continued to teach and act even after His resurrection. He presented many convincing proofs that He was alive, strengthening the faith of His disciples.
- During forty days, He spoke about the Kingdom of God, preparing their hearts for the work ahead. This shows that faith is grounded in the living reality of the risen Christ.

💡 Lesson: Our faith is not based on imagination but on the truth of the risen Jesus who reveals Himself and strengthens His followers. God patiently prepares us through His Word before entrusting us with His work.
🔍 Reflection: Do I take time to grow in faith and understanding through God's Word, or do I rush ahead without spiritual preparation?

- **Verses 4–5:** Jesus commands the disciples not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit. Though they had walked with Jesus, they still needed divine empowerment.
- This teaches us that God's mission cannot be fulfilled through human strength alone but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

💡 Lesson: Spiritual effectiveness comes from dependence on the Holy Spirit, not merely from experience, knowledge, or effort. Waiting on God is part of His preparation process.
🔍 Reflection: Am I relying on my own strength in my spiritual life, or am I truly depending on the Holy Spirit for guidance and power?

- **Verses 6–8:** The disciples ask about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel, revealing their limited understanding. Jesus gently redirects them from curiosity about times and seasons to their true calling.
- He promises that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and that they will be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. This verse reveals the global scope of God's mission and the purpose of every believer.

💡 Lesson: God calls us to focus more on our mission than on unanswered questions about the future. Our primary calling is to be faithful witnesses of Christ wherever we are.
🔍 Reflection: Am I more concerned about knowing God's plans for my future, or about faithfully living out the mission He has already given me?

- **Verses 9–11:** Jesus is taken up before their eyes, and a cloud hides Him from their sight. As they look upward, two angels remind them that He will return in the same way He ascended.
- The ascension confirms Christ's authority and reign, while also assuring believers of His promised return. It shifts their focus from standing still in wonder to moving forward in faithful obedience.

💡 Lesson: The ascended Christ reigns in glory and His return is certain, giving believers hope and purpose in their daily walk. Faith is not meant to remain in admiration alone but to move into action and obedience.
🔍 Reflection: Does the truth that Jesus reigns and will return again influence how I live, serve, and remain faithful each day?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." — *Acts 1:8*

This verse clearly expresses the promise of the Holy Spirit's power and the purpose of every believer to be a witness for Christ.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, I stand in awe of Your resurrection and ascension. You are the living Lord who reigns in glory, yet You lovingly prepared Your disciples for their calling. Thank You for Your patience, Your teaching, and Your promises that never fail.

Forgive me for the times I focus more on my own plans and expectations than on Your mission. Help me to trust Your timing and Your perfect will. Teach me to wait in obedience, just as the disciples waited for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit, prepare my heart as I meditate on Your Word. Strengthen my faith in the risen Christ and fill me with spiritual understanding. May this passage not remain only in my mind but transform my life.

Lord, lift my eyes toward heaven, where You reign in glory. Remind me daily that You will return again. Until that day, help me to live faithfully, walk obediently, and witness boldly. Let my life reflect Your truth, Your love, and Your power. In Your holy and precious name, I pray, **Amen.**

Week 1 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 1:1–11

Theme: The Ascended Lord and the Promise of Power

🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to be still in God's presence. Reflect on the scene of the risen Jesus speaking to His disciples, promising the Holy Spirit, and ascending into heaven. Ask the Lord to help you not only remember the passage but to allow its truth to shape your faith, hope, and purpose.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 1:1–11** again. Let each verse remind you that Jesus is alive, reigning, and actively guiding His mission through His people.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 1:3** "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." Jesus did not leave His disciples in doubt. He confirmed His resurrection through visible appearances and teaching, strengthening their faith and preparing them for their calling.
- **Acts 1:5** "For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." This verse highlights God's promise of spiritual empowerment. Before the mission begins, the disciples are assured that the Holy Spirit will equip them with divine power and guidance.
- **Acts 1:8** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Jesus clearly defines the purpose of the believer's life. The Holy Spirit empowers us not just for personal growth, but to be faithful witnesses of Christ everywhere.
- **Acts 1:11** "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." This verse gives believers a living hope. The ascended Christ will return again, encouraging us to live with faith, purpose, and readiness.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God's plans are higher than our expectations.** Like the disciples, we often expect God to work according to our own understanding and timelines. Yet God's purposes are greater, wiser, and eternal, calling us to trust His plan even when we do not fully comprehend it.
2. **Waiting on God is an act of faith and obedience.** When Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem, He was teaching them dependence and trust. Waiting is not passive; it is a spiritual posture of surrender, believing that God's timing is perfect and His promises will surely be fulfilled.
3. **The Holy Spirit empowers us for our calling.** God never sends His people into His work without equipping them. The Holy Spirit strengthens, guides, and transforms us so that we can live out our faith and fulfill our purpose beyond our natural ability.
4. **Our mission is to be witnesses of Christ in every area of life.** Being a witness is not limited to words but includes our character, actions, and daily conduct. Wherever God places us, at home, in church, or in society, our lives should reflect the truth, love, and grace of Jesus.
5. **The hope of Christ's return should shape how we live daily.** The promise that Jesus will return again gives believers a sense of purpose, urgency, and hope. It encourages us to live faithfully, remain spiritually alert, and align our lives with eternal values rather than temporary concerns.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- This passage reveals a powerful transition in God's redemptive plan. The risen Jesus confirms His resurrection, teaches about the Kingdom of God, and prepares His disciples for the mission ahead. Instead of giving them political answers or earthly timelines, He redirects their focus toward spiritual responsibility and global witness.
- The command to wait in Jerusalem teaches the importance of dependence on God's power rather than human effort. The promise of the Holy Spirit assures believers that they are never alone in their calling. The ascension reminds us that Jesus reigns in glory, while the

promise of His return gives us lasting hope.

- The disciples moved from confusion to purpose, from waiting to witnessing. Likewise, this passage calls us to trust God's timing, rely on the Holy Spirit, and live with the awareness that Christ is both reigning now and returning again.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I truly believe in the living and reigning Christ who guides my life today?
- Am I depending on the Holy Spirit or relying on my own strength?
- How can I be a witness for Jesus in my home, church, and community?
- Am I living with the hope and readiness for Christ's return?

📖 Memory Verse

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." — *Acts 1:8*

This verse clearly expresses the promise of the Holy Spirit's power and the purpose of every believer to be a witness for Christ. It sets the foundation for understanding both our calling and the source of our strength in fulfilling it.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the truth of Your Word and the hope found in the ascension of Jesus. Help me to live with confidence that Christ is alive, reigning, and returning again. Strengthen my faith so that I may trust Your promises even when I do not fully understand Your plans.

Lord Jesus, redirect my focus from earthly distractions to Your eternal mission. Teach me to depend on the Holy Spirit in every aspect of my life. Fill me with courage, wisdom, and love so that I may be a faithful witness for You.

Holy Spirit, empower me, guide me, and transform my heart daily. Help me to live with purpose, obedience, and expectation of Christ's return. May my life reflect the glory of the ascended Lord and bring honor to Your holy name. **Amen.**

Week 1 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 1:12–26

Theme: Prayerful Waiting and Trusting God's Guidance

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a moment to quiet your heart before the Lord. Let every distraction fade as you enter into a spirit of reverence and expectancy. In today's passage, the disciples have witnessed the ascension of Jesus and now return to Jerusalem in obedience, waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit. This is a sacred season of waiting, unity, prayer, and trust in God's direction. Ask the Lord to prepare your heart to understand the beauty of faithful waiting and the importance of seeking His will in every decision.

Introduction & Background

- After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples did not scatter in confusion or fear. Instead, they obeyed His command and returned to Jerusalem. Though they did not yet fully understand what would happen next, they remained united in prayer and expectation. This period between the ascension and Pentecost was a time of spiritual preparation.
- The early believers gathered together with one purpose, to seek God. Among them were the apostles, the women who followed Jesus, and His family. Their unity and devotion reveal the foundation of the early Church, not activity, but prayer.
- During this time, Peter stood up and addressed the need to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus. By turning to Scripture and prayer, the disciples demonstrated their dependence on God's guidance rather than human opinion. This passage teaches us that when we wait on God with prayer and unity, He faithfully directs our steps.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly and prayerfully read **Acts 1:12–26.** Picture the disciples gathered in the upper room, praying together with sincere hearts. Imagine the quiet atmosphere of expectation as they wait for God's promise. As you read, ask yourself: What does this passage teach me about obedience, prayer, and trusting God's guidance?

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 12–14:** The disciples return to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives in obedience to Jesus' command. They gather in the upper room and devote themselves continually to prayer, along with the women, Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.
- This shows their unity, humility, and dependence on God during a season of waiting. Instead of acting impulsively, they seek the Lord together with one heart and purpose.

💡 Lesson: Spiritual strength grows in an atmosphere of unity and prayer. Waiting on God becomes meaningful when it is filled with devotion and fellowship with Him.

🔍 Reflection: When I am in a season of waiting, do I draw closer to God in prayer or become restless and distracted?

- **Verses 15–20:** Peter stands among the believers and speaks about the fulfilment of Scripture concerning Judas' betrayal. He explains that what happened was not outside God's knowledge but part of what had been foretold in Scripture.
- By referring to the Psalms, Peter shows that God's Word provides understanding even in painful situations.

💡 Lesson: God's Word brings clarity and stability even in times of confusion, loss, or disappointment. Nothing in our lives takes God by surprise, and His purposes remain sovereign.

🔍 Reflection: Do I turn to Scripture for guidance when facing difficult or confusing circumstances in my life?

- **Verses 21–23:** The disciples recognise the need to appoint another witness to take Judas' place among the apostles. They carefully choose from those who had been with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry to His ascension.
- This shows their desire for faithful and qualified leadership rooted in firsthand experience of Christ.

💡 Lesson: God values faithfulness and spiritual maturity in those who serve Him. True leadership in God's kingdom is grounded in a life that has walked closely with Christ.

🔍 Reflection: Am I growing in faithfulness and consistency in my walk with Jesus, preparing myself for the responsibilities He may entrust to me?

- **Verses 24–26:** Before making the final decision, the disciples pray and ask the Lord, who knows every heart, to reveal His chosen servant. They cast lots, and Matthias is chosen to join the eleven apostles.
- Their process reflects deep trust in God's sovereignty and guidance rather than relying on human preference alone.

💡 Lesson: God guides His people when they seek Him sincerely in prayer and submission. True discernment comes from trusting God's wisdom above our own understanding.

🔍 Reflection: Do I genuinely seek God's direction in my decisions, or do I rely mainly on my own judgment and reasoning?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." — *Acts 1:14*

This verse highlights the importance of unity and persistent prayer as the foundation for spiritual preparation. It reminds us that God works powerfully through believers who seek Him together with one heart.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the example of the early believers who waited in unity, prayer, and obedience. Teach me to wait patiently on Your promises and not to rush ahead in my own strength. Help me to seek You first in every season of uncertainty and transition.

Lord, give me a heart that is devoted to prayer and fellowship with You. Remove every spirit of impatience, fear, or self-reliance, and replace it with trust and surrender. When I face decisions or challenges, remind me to seek Your wisdom above all else.

Holy Spirit, prepare my heart just as You prepared the early Church. Unite my thoughts, strengthen my faith, and guide my steps according to Your will. May my life be marked by obedience, prayer, and complete trust in Your sovereign plan. In the name of Jesus, I pray, **Amen**.

Week 1 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 1:12–26

Theme: Prayerful Waiting and Trusting God's Guidance

🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Quiet your mind and reflect on the disciples returning to Jerusalem after Jesus' ascension. Picture them gathered together in unity, praying and waiting for God's promise. Ask the Lord to cultivate in you a heart of patience, trust, and readiness for His guidance.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 1:12–26**. Notice the posture of the disciples as they wait in prayer, seek God's direction, and trust His sovereignty in choosing the next apostle.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 1:14** "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." This verse shows the spiritual unity of the early believers. In a moment of uncertainty, they did not panic but devoted themselves to prayer, demonstrating their dependence on God's presence and guidance.
- **Acts 1:16** "Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas." Peter reminds the believers that even difficult events are within God's sovereign plan. The betrayal of Judas was not outside God's knowledge, but part of the unfolding fulfilment of Scripture.
- **Acts 1:24** "Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen.'" Before making a decision, the disciples sought God's wisdom through prayer. They recognised that true leadership and calling come from the Lord, not merely from human preference.
- **Acts 1:26** "Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles." This moment reflects the disciples' trust in God's authority over their decisions. They acted with faith, believing that God would guide the outcome according to His perfect will.

2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **Prayer should be our first response in times of waiting.** The disciples gathered in persistent prayer instead of acting in haste, teaching us that seeking God's presence brings clarity, peace, and spiritual strength during uncertain seasons.
2. **Unity strengthens the work of God's people.** The believers were together in one place, united in purpose and devotion. When we walk in harmony with fellow believers, our faith is encouraged and God's work is strengthened in our lives and communities.
3. **God's Word provides direction and understanding.** Peter turned to Scripture to interpret events and guide their next steps. Likewise, God's Word helps us discern His will and remain grounded in truth when facing complex decisions.
4. **God knows the heart and calls according to His purpose.** The disciples prayed for God to reveal His chosen servant, acknowledging that the Lord sees beyond outward appearance. This reminds us to trust God's wisdom in leadership, calling, and life decisions.
5. **Faithful preparation precedes spiritual empowerment.** Before the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, the disciples prepared themselves through prayer, obedience, and trust. God often prepares our hearts in hidden seasons before fulfilling His promises in visible ways.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- This passage highlights the transition period between Christ's ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The disciples returned to Jerusalem in obedience, gathering in unity and prayer as they waited for God's promise. Rather than moving ahead in uncertainty, they grounded themselves in Scripture and sought divine direction.
- Peter's leadership demonstrates spiritual maturity as he interprets events through God's Word and guides the group with wisdom. The selection of Matthias shows that God remains sovereign over His mission and His chosen servants. Even in a time of waiting, God was actively preparing His people for the greater work ahead.
- The early believers model a life of prayerful dependence, unity, and trust in God's plan. Their example encourages us to seek God first,

rely on His Word, and remain faithful in seasons of preparation, knowing that He is guiding every step of our journey.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I respond to waiting seasons with prayer or impatience?
- Am I seeking unity and fellowship with other believers in my spiritual journey?
- Do I consult God's Word when making important decisions?
- Am I trusting God's sovereign guidance over my life and calling?

📖 Memory Verse

"They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." — *Acts 1:14*

This verse highlights the importance of unity and persistent prayer as the foundation for spiritual preparation. It reminds us that God works powerfully through believers who seek Him together with one heart.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me the importance of prayer, unity, and trust in Your sovereign plan. Help me to seek You first in every season of waiting and uncertainty. Strengthen my faith so that I may rely on Your Word and Your wisdom above my own understanding.

Lord Jesus, shape my heart to be obedient and patient as I follow Your will. Teach me to live in unity with others and to trust that You are guiding every detail of my life according to Your purpose.

Holy Spirit, prepare my heart through prayer and surrender. Lead me in truth, give me discernment in decisions, and help me remain faithful while I wait on Your promises. May my life reflect trust, obedience, and devotion to You each day. **Amen**.

Week 1 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 2:1–21

Theme: **The Coming of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church**

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to come before God with reverence and expectation. Today's passage is one of the most significant moments in Scripture, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This is not merely an event in history, but the fulfilment of God's promise and the beginning of the Spirit's indwelling presence in believers. Ask the Lord to open your heart to understand the power, presence, and transforming work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Introduction & Background

- After days of prayerful waiting in Jerusalem, the disciples were united in one place, holding onto the promise Jesus had given them. They did not know the exact moment the Holy Spirit would come, but they remained obedient and expectant.
- Pentecost, originally a Jewish feast celebrating harvest, became the day God poured out His Spirit upon His people in a new and powerful way.
- This passage marks a divine turning point in redemptive history. The Holy Spirit, who was active throughout the Old Testament in specific ways, now comes to dwell within believers permanently.
- The Church is empowered, the gospel begins to spread boldly, and ordinary followers of Jesus are transformed into courageous witnesses. The coming of the Holy Spirit reveals God's desire not only to guide His people externally but to live within them, shaping their hearts, words, and mission.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly and prayerfully read **Acts 2:1–21**. Imagine the upper room filled with believers waiting in unity and prayer. Picture the sound from heaven, the tongues of fire, and the disciples speaking in different languages as the Spirit empowers them. As you read, reflect on how the Holy Spirit changes fear into boldness and weakness into spiritual strength.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–4:** The believers are gathered together on the day of Pentecost when suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind fills the house, and tongues of fire rest on each of them. They are all filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enables them.
- This moment signifies the indwelling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The wind represents divine presence and power, while the fire symbolises purification and God's holy presence. The filling of the Spirit marks the beginning of a new covenant experience where God's Spirit lives within His people.

💡 Lesson: The Holy Spirit is God's personal presence within believers, empowering, transforming, and equipping them for His purposes. Spiritual life is not sustained by human strength but by the Spirit of God dwelling within us.

🔍 Reflection: Do I recognise the Holy Spirit as an active and living presence guiding my thoughts, actions, and spiritual growth?

- **Verses 5–13:** Devout Jews from many nations hear the disciples speaking in their own languages and are amazed and confused. Some are astonished at the works of God being declared in their native tongues, while others mock and misunderstand the situation.
- This shows that the Holy Spirit enables the gospel to reach all people beyond cultural and linguistic barriers. The miracle of languages demonstrates that God's message is for every nation and that the Spirit empowers believers to communicate His truth effectively.

💡 Lesson: The Holy Spirit equips believers to be witnesses to all people. God's mission is global, and His Spirit enables us to share His truth with clarity, boldness, and love.

🔍 Reflection: Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to use my life and words to share Christ with people from different backgrounds and situations?

- **Verses 14–18:** Peter stands up with boldness and explains that what is happening is the fulfilment of the prophecy spoken by the prophet Joel. He declares that God is pouring out His Spirit on all people, sons and daughters, young and old, servants and all who belong to Him.

- This passage highlights the inclusiveness and abundance of the Holy Spirit's outpouring. No longer limited to a few individuals, the Spirit is given to all who belong to Christ, empowering them to live in fellowship with God and participate in His mission.

💡 Lesson: The gift of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers, regardless of age, status, or background. God desires every believer to live a Spirit-filled life marked by intimacy with Him and spiritual purpose.

🔍 Reflection: Am I living with the awareness that the Holy Spirit dwells in me and empowers me daily?

- **Verses 19–21**: Peter continues by proclaiming God's promise of salvation and declares that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. The outpouring of the Spirit is connected with God's redemptive plan and the invitation of salvation to all humanity.
- This reveals that the work of the Holy Spirit is closely tied to salvation, conviction, and spiritual renewal. The Spirit not only empowers believers but also draws hearts toward repentance and faith in Christ.

💡 Lesson: The Holy Spirit leads people to salvation and assures believers of their relationship with God. His presence transforms lives and points all hearts toward Jesus.

🔍 Reflection: Have I personally responded to God's call to salvation and allowed the Holy Spirit to transform my inner life?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." – *Acts 2:4*

This verse captures the powerful fulfilment of God's promise as the Holy Spirit fills the believers and empowers them. It reminds us that God equips His people with His Spirit to carry out His purpose.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I come before You today with humility and gratitude, thanking You for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for not leaving me to walk this life alone, but for choosing to dwell within me, guide me, comfort me, and transform me from within. I acknowledge that Your Spirit is holy, pure, and powerful, and I invite Your presence to fill every area of my heart, mind, and life.

Lord, I confess that I am imperfect and often fall short of Your holiness. Forgive me for the times I have been spiritually careless, distracted, and uncommitted in my walk with You. Forgive my unholiness, my weak faith,

and the moments when I have resisted Your voice or ignored Your prompting. I repent of every attitude, thought, and action that has grieved Your Holy Spirit and hindered Your work in my life. Cleanse my heart and renew my spirit, O God.

Holy Spirit, I welcome You to dwell richly within me. Take full control of my thoughts, my desires, my words, and my decisions. Remove every trace of pride, fear, doubt, and self-reliance that prevents me from fully surrendering to You. Teach me to walk in obedience, sensitivity, and reverence toward Your presence each day.

Lord, produce in me the fruit of the Spirit. Fill my life with **love** that reflects Christ, **joy** that is rooted in Your presence, **peace** that surpasses understanding, **patience** in trials, **kindness** in my actions, **goodness** in my character, **faithfulness** in my walk, **gentleness** in my responses, and **self-control** in my daily living. Let my life be a living testimony of Your transforming power.

Father, strengthen my faith where it is weak and revive my commitment where it has grown cold. Help me to depend on the Holy Spirit instead of my own strength. Guide me in truth, convict me when I stray, and lead me in the path of righteousness for Your name's sake.

Holy Spirit, empower me to live a holy and surrendered life. Shape my character, renew my mind, and align my heart with God's will. May Your presence be evident in my life, in my speech, in my relationships, and in my service to others.

From this day forward, I commit myself afresh to You. Dwell in me, guide me, sanctify me, and use me for Your glory. Let my life be fully yielded to Your Spirit, so that I may grow in holiness, bear spiritual fruit, and live as a faithful witness of Christ. In the name of Jesus, I pray, **Amen**.

Week 1 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 2:1–21

Theme: The Coming of the Holy Spirit and the Birth of the Church

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Quiet your heart in the presence of the Lord and reflect on the promise Jesus gave about the Holy Spirit. The disciples had waited in prayer, unity, and obedience, and now the moment of divine fulfilment arrives. Ask the Lord to open your understanding so that you may grasp the depth of the Holy Spirit's work, not only in the early Church but also in your own life today. Invite the Holy Spirit to teach, renew, and awaken your spirit as you meditate on this sacred passage.
📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 2:1-21**. Imagine the upper room filled with believers praying in expectation. Picture the sound from heaven, the tongues of fire, and the transformation that took place as the Holy Spirit-filled them. As you read, reflect on how God's presence moved powerfully and how the same Spirit continues to dwell in believers today.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 2:1** "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place." This verse highlights the unity and obedience of the disciples. They remained together, waiting for God's timing. The Holy Spirit often moves powerfully where there is unity, humility, and shared expectation.
- **Acts 2:2** "Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting." The Spirit's arrival is unmistakable. The wind symbolises God's breath, His life giving presence. It reminds us that the Holy Spirit is not an idea or a feeling but the living presence of God entering human lives with power.
- **Acts 2:3** "They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them." Fire in Scripture represents God's purity, power, and presence. The fact that the fire rests on *each* believer shows that the Holy Spirit is given personally and individually. No one is overlooked. Every believer becomes a vessel of God's presence.

- **Acts 2:4** "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." This is the moment of empowerment. The Spirit fills them, equips them, and enables them to speak in languages they never learned. This miracle shows that the gospel is for every nation and every people. The Spirit breaks barriers and empowers mission.
- **Acts 2:17** "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.'" Peter explains that what is happening is the fulfilment of God's promise through the prophet Joel. The Spirit is no longer limited to prophets or kings. God pours His Spirit on sons and daughters, young and old, men and women. This is the beginning of a new era of grace.
- **Acts 2:21** "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." The outpouring of the Spirit leads to the proclamation of salvation. God's heart is not only to empower His people but to draw the world to Himself. The Spirit-filled church becomes the instrument through which salvation is announced.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **The Holy Spirit comes where there is unity and obedience.** The disciples were together, waiting as Jesus commanded. When we walk in unity and obedience, we create space for the Spirit to move powerfully in our lives and communities.
2. **The Holy Spirit brings transformation, not just inspiration.** Wind and fire are symbols of change. The Spirit does not simply comfort us; He reshapes us, purifies us, and empowers us for God's purposes.
3. **The Holy Spirit equips us for mission.** The miracle of languages shows that God's heart is for the nations. The Spirit empowers us to reach beyond our limitations, fears, and cultural boundaries.
4. **The Holy Spirit is for everyone who believes.** Peter declares that the promise is for all people. No believer is too young, too old, too weak, or too ordinary to be filled and used by God.
5. **The Holy Spirit gives boldness to proclaim Christ.** Peter, who once denied Jesus, now stands with courage and clarity. The Spirit turns fear into boldness and hesitation into proclamation.

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6. **The Holy Spirit reveals God's heart for salvation.** The outpouring of the Spirit is not an end in itself. It leads to the preaching of the gospel so that people may call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 2:1–21 marks the birth of the church and the beginning of the Spirit-empowered mission of God. The disciples, gathered in unity and expectation, experience the supernatural arrival of the Holy Spirit. Wind, fire, and tongues demonstrate God's power and His intention to reach all nations.
- Peter's sermon shows that this moment is the fulfilment of God's ancient promise. The Spirit is poured out on all people, breaking every barrier of age, gender, and status. The church is no longer a waiting community but a witnessing community.
- This passage reminds us that the Christian life is impossible without the Holy Spirit. He empowers, transforms, guides, and sends us. The same Spirit who filled the disciples at Pentecost is available to us today, ready to fill every believer who seeks Him with an open heart.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I living with a posture of expectation for the Holy Spirit to move in my life?
- Do I value unity and obedience as essential conditions for God's work?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to transform areas of my life that need His fire?
- Do I see myself as someone God can empower for His mission?
- Am I open to the Spirit's leading, even when it stretches me beyond my comfort?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." – *Acts 2:4*

This verse captures the powerful fulfilment of God's promise as the Holy Spirit fills the believers and empowers them.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a longing heart, grateful for the promise and presence of the Holy Spirit. Thank You for desiring to dwell within me, to make my life a temple of Your presence. I acknowledge that without Your Spirit I have no strength, no wisdom, and no power to live the life You have called me to live. Today, I open my heart wide and ask You to fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit.

Lord, I confess that there have been moments when I have lived in my own strength, relied on my own understanding, and allowed distractions to dull my spiritual hunger. Forgive me for every attitude, thought, and action that has resisted Your work in me. Cleanse me from anything that grieves Your Spirit and renew a right spirit within me.

Holy Spirit, Fill my mind with Your truth, my heart with Your love, and my spirit with Your power. Teach me to recognise Your voice, to follow Your leading, and to yield to Your gentle conviction. Remove every barrier that keeps me from experiencing the fullness of Your indwelling presence.

Lord, shape my character through the fruit of the Spirit. Let **love** flow from me, let **joy** strengthen me, let **peace** anchor me, let **patience** steady me, let **kindness** soften me, let **goodness** guide me, let **faithfulness** sustain me, let **gentleness** humble me, and let **self-control** discipline me.

Father, ignite in me a fresh desire to walk closely with You. Revive my passion for prayer, deepen my love for Your Word, and awaken my heart to Your purposes. Help me to depend on the Holy Spirit in every decision, every challenge, and every opportunity. Let Your presence be my strength, my wisdom, and my constant companion.

Holy Spirit, empower me to live a life that honours Christ. Fill me with boldness to witness, compassion to serve, and courage to obey. Renew my mind, transform my desires, and align my heart with the will of God. Let Your fire burn away everything that is not of You and purify my life for Your glory. Today, I surrender myself completely to You. Dwell in me, lead me, sanctify me, and use me as You desire. In the name of Jesus, I pray, **Amen**.

Week 1 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: Resting in the Promise, Presence, and Power of the Holy Spirit

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Throughout this week we have walked with the early believers as they waited, prayed, obeyed, and received. We have seen their journey from watching Jesus ascend, to gathering in unity, to seeking God in prayer, and finally to experiencing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Their waiting was not wasted. Their obedience prepared them. Their unity positioned them. Their prayer opened their hearts. And the Spirit came with power, presence, and purpose.

Today, as we rest, we remember that the same Spirit who filled the upper room is the Spirit who dwells within us. He strengthens us in weakness, guides us in uncertainty, empowers us for witness, and forms Christ within us. The story of the early church is not only history, it is an invitation. God calls us to live with the same expectancy, the same surrender, and the same openness to His Spirit. In His presence we find renewal, courage, and the grace to walk into a new week with confidence in His leading.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Renewal

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a grateful heart for all You have shown me this week. Thank You for reminding me that Your work begins in waiting, that Your strength is revealed in my weakness, and that Your Spirit is the One who empowers every step of my journey. Today, I rest in Your faithful presence and in the promise that You are always near.

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me to follow You with a surrendered and obedient heart. Forgive me for the moments when I have relied on my own strength or allowed fear and distraction to cloud my faith. Cleanse me, renew me, and draw me closer to You. Teach me to walk in unity, humility, and trust, just as the early believers did as they waited for Your promise.

Holy Spirit, I welcome You. Fill me again with Your presence. Renew my mind, steady my heart, and strengthen my spirit. Restore my joy where it has faded, deepen my peace where it has been shaken, and awaken my

desire to walk in step with You. Shape my character, guide my decisions, and empower my life so that Christ may be seen in me.

Lord, produce in me the fruit of the Spirit. Fill my life with **love** that reflects Christ, **joy** that is rooted in Your presence, **peace** that surpasses understanding, **patience** in trials, **kindness** in my actions, **goodness** in my character, **faithfulness** in my walk, **gentleness** in my responses, and **self-control** in my daily living. Let my life be a living testimony of Your transforming power.

As I rest in Your presence today, prepare me for the week ahead. Lead me with wisdom, anchor me in truth, and help me to live with courage, compassion, and faith. May my life reflect the beauty of Your work within me and bring glory to the One who calls me, fills me, and sends me. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 2:22–47

Theme: **The Exalted Christ and the Spirit-empowered Birth of the Church**

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to settle your heart before the Lord. Let every distraction fade as you invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this powerful passage. Today we enter the heart of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, a message that explains the meaning of Jesus' death, resurrection, and exaltation. This is the moment when the Spirit-filled church begins its mission. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to the glory of Christ, the work of the Spirit, and the calling placed upon every believer.

Introduction & Background

After the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, a crowd gathered in amazement. Some were confused, others mocked, and many were searching for meaning. Peter, once fearful and uncertain, now stands with boldness and clarity. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he proclaims the truth about Jesus with authority and conviction.

This passage is the first recorded sermon of the early church. It explains who Jesus is, why He came, and what His resurrection means for humanity. Peter shows that Jesus is not only the crucified Messiah but the exalted Lord who now pours out the Holy Spirit on all who believe. The message cuts to the hearts of the listeners, leading to repentance, baptism, and the formation of a Spirit-filled community.

Acts 2 verses 22 to 47 is not only a historical moment but a blueprint for the church. It reveals the power of the gospel, the work of the Spirit, and the beauty of a community shaped by Christ.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 2:22–47**. Picture Peter standing before the crowd, proclaiming Jesus with boldness. Imagine the conviction that fell upon the listeners, the joy of three thousand souls turning to Christ, and the birth of a community devoted to prayer, fellowship, and worship. As you read, ask: What is the Spirit teaching me about Christ, about salvation, and about the life of the church?

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 22–24:** Peter begins by declaring that Jesus was accredited by God through miracles, wonders, and signs. Yet He was handed over according to God's plan and crucified by sinful men. But God raised Him from the dead, breaking the power of death.
- This shows that the cross was not a tragic accident but the centre of God's saving purpose. The resurrection is the divine confirmation that Jesus is Lord and Messiah.

💡 Lesson: God's plan is never defeated by human actions. Even the darkest moments are woven into His redemptive purpose.
🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God's sovereignty even when circumstances seem confusing or painful?

- **Verses 25–32:** Peter quotes David to show that the resurrection of Jesus was foretold in Scripture. David spoke of One whose body would not see decay. This prophecy could not refer to David himself, for he died and was buried. It pointed to Christ, whom God raised to life.
- Peter and the apostles stand as witnesses of this truth. Their testimony is grounded in what they have seen and experienced.

💡 Lesson: The resurrection is the foundation of Christian faith. It is not a myth but a historical reality witnessed by many.
🔍 Reflection: Is my faith rooted in the living Christ, or in feelings that rise and fall with circumstances?

- **Verses 33–36:** Peter declares that Jesus is now exalted to the right hand of God. From this place of authority, He pours out the Holy Spirit. The signs the crowd sees and hears are evidence of His reign.
- Peter concludes with a powerful statement: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.

💡 Lesson: Jesus is not only the Saviour who died for us but the Lord who reigns over us. The Spirit's work in our lives flows from His exalted position.
🔍 Reflection: Do I honour Jesus as Lord in every area of my life, or only in the areas that feel comfortable?

- **Verses 37–41:** The crowd is deeply convicted and asks, What shall we do? Peter calls them to repent, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit. The promise is for all who believe, for every generation, and for

all whom the Lord calls.

- Three thousand people respond in faith. The church is born through the power of the gospel and the work of the Spirit.

💡 Lesson: True conviction leads to repentance, transformation, and new life. Salvation is a gift offered to all who call on the Lord.

🔍 Reflection: When the Spirit convicts me, do I respond with repentance or with resistance?

- **Verses 42–47:** The new believers devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. They share their possessions, care for one another, worship with joy, and enjoy favour with the people. The Lord adds to their number daily.
- This is the picture of a Spirit-filled community: united, generous, joyful, prayerful, and centred on Christ.

💡 Lesson: The church is not a building but a community shaped by the Spirit and grounded in love, truth, and worship.

🔍 Reflection: Am I contributing to unity, generosity, and devotion within my church community?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." – *Acts 2:36*

This verse stands at the very heart of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. It is the climactic declaration that brings together everything he has been explaining about Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and exaltation.

1. It declares the identity of Jesus with absolute clarity. Peter boldly proclaims that Jesus is both **Lord** and **Messiah**. This is the central truth of the Christian faith and the foundation of the church's message.

2. It reveals God's sovereign work in salvation. Peter emphasises that **God has made** Jesus Lord and Messiah. The cross was not a defeat but part of God's redemptive plan, and the resurrection confirms Jesus' divine authority.

3. It confronts the listener with a personal response. Peter says, "whom you crucified," reminding the crowd that they must respond to the truth about Jesus. The gospel always calls for repentance, faith, and surrender.

4. It connects the exaltation of Christ with the outpouring of the Spirit. Everything happening at Pentecost is explained by this truth: The risen and exalted Jesus is now pouring out the Holy Spirit on His people.
5. It prepares the heart for transformation. This declaration leads directly to conviction, repentance, and the birth of the early church. It is a verse that invites us to bow before Christ as Lord and to open our hearts to the work of the Spirit.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You for the truth revealed in this passage. You are the crucified Saviour, the risen Lord, and the exalted King who pours out the Holy Spirit. I stand in awe of Your power, Your love, and Your redeeming purpose.

Forgive me for the times I have taken lightly the message of the gospel or resisted the work of Your Spirit. Create in me a heart that responds quickly to conviction, walks in repentance, and seeks to honour You in every area of life.

Holy Spirit, fill me with fresh devotion to Your Word, deeper love for Your people, and greater boldness to witness for Christ. Shape my life into a reflection of the early church, marked by unity, generosity, prayer, and joy.

Lord, help me to live as a faithful witness of the risen Christ. May my life proclaim Your truth, display Your love, and reveal Your transforming power. In Your holy name I pray, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 2:22–47

Theme: The Exalted Christ and the Spirit-empowered Birth of the Church

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to quiet your spirit before the Lord. Reflect on the powerful scene of Peter standing before the crowd, proclaiming the truth about Jesus with boldness and clarity. Consider the work of the Holy Spirit that brought conviction, repentance, and the birth of a new community. Ask the Lord to help you not only understand this passage but to allow its truth to shape your devotion, your witness, and your life within the body of Christ.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 2:22–47** again. Let each verse remind you of the power of the gospel, the authority of the risen Christ, and the beauty of a Spirit-filled church. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart about your own walk with Christ and your place in His community.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 2:23** "This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." Peter reveals that the cross was not a tragic mistake but the centre of God's redemptive plan. Human sin played a part, yet God's purpose prevailed. The crucifixion shows both the depth of human rebellion and the greatness of God's saving love.
- **Acts 2:24** "But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." The resurrection is the turning point of history. Death could not hold Jesus because He is the Holy One, the Son of God. This truth forms the foundation of Christian hope and the message of the early church.
- **Acts 2:33** "Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." Jesus is not only risen but exalted. From His place of authority, He pours out the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is the visible evidence that Jesus reigns as Lord and continues His work through

His people.

- **Acts 2:37** "When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'" The Spirit brings conviction that leads to repentance. True repentance begins when the heart is pierced by the truth of Christ's death and resurrection.
- **Acts 2:42** "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." This verse describes the rhythm of the early church. Their devotion was not casual or occasional but consistent and wholehearted. Teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer formed the foundation of their spiritual life.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **The gospel confronts us before it comforts us.** Peter's message exposed sin, revealed truth, and called for repentance. The Spirit still works this way today, leading us to humility, confession, and transformation.
2. **The resurrection is the anchor of our faith.** Everything in the Christian life flows from the truth that Jesus is alive. His victory over death gives us hope, courage, and confidence in every season.
3. **Jesus reigns as the exalted Lord who pours out the Spirit.** Pentecost reminds us that the Christian life is not lived in our own strength. The Spirit empowers us to witness, to grow, and to live in obedience.
4. **Repentance is the doorway to new life.** The crowd's response shows that conviction must lead to action. Repentance, baptism, and faith open the way for the Spirit's work in our lives.
5. **A Spirit-filled life is a devoted life.** The early believers were committed to learning, worshipping, sharing, and praying together. Spiritual growth happens in community, not isolation.
6. **Generosity and unity are marks of a healthy church.** The believers shared their possessions, cared for one another, and lived with glad and sincere hearts. The Spirit produces a community shaped by love, humility, and sacrificial giving.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 2:22–47 reveals the heart of the gospel and the birth of the church. Peter proclaims Jesus as the crucified Saviour, the risen Lord, and the exalted King who pours out the Holy Spirit. His message brings deep conviction, leading thousands to repentance and faith.
- The new believers form a community marked by devotion, unity, generosity, worship, and joy. This passage shows that the church is not built by human effort but by the power of the Spirit working through the truth of the gospel.
- The same Spirit who moved on the day of Pentecost continues to work in the lives of believers today. He calls us to repentance, forms us into a loving community, and empowers us to live as witnesses of Christ.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Has the truth of the gospel pierced my heart and led me to deeper repentance and surrender?
- Am I living under the lordship of the risen and exalted Christ?
- Do I depend on the Holy Spirit for strength, guidance, and boldness?
- Am I devoted to the life of the church, growing in teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer?
- How can I reflect the generosity, unity, and joy of the early believers in my daily life?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." – *Acts 2:36*

This verse stands at the very heart of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. It is the climactic declaration that brings together everything he has been explaining about Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and exaltation.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the powerful truth revealed in this passage. You sent Jesus according to Your perfect plan, raised Him from the dead, and exalted Him as Lord and Messiah. I stand in awe of Your wisdom, Your love, and Your saving purpose.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have taken lightly the message of the cross or resisted the work of Your Spirit. Pierce my heart with Your truth and lead me into deeper repentance and obedience. Help me to honour You as Lord in every area of my life.

Holy Spirit, fill me with fresh devotion to Your Word, deeper love for Your people, and greater boldness to witness for Christ. Shape my heart to reflect the unity, generosity, and joy of the early church. Teach me to walk in step with You each day.

Lord, let my life be a living testimony of the risen Christ. Strengthen me to live with purpose, humility, and faithfulness. May Your Spirit continue to transform me and use me for Your glory. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 3:1–10

Theme: The Transforming Power of Christ

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Lay aside every distraction and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this beautiful and powerful passage. Today we witness the first recorded miracle of the early church after Pentecost. It is a moment where the compassion of Christ and the power of His name are revealed through His Spirit-filled servants. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to His heart for people, His power at work in the world, and your calling to be His instrument of grace.

Introduction & Background

After the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the early church, the apostles continued to live out their faith in daily rhythms of worship, prayer, and service. Acts 3 introduces us to Peter and John going to the temple at the hour of prayer. What begins as an ordinary moment becomes an extraordinary encounter through the power of the risen Christ.

A man who had been lame from birth was carried daily to the temple gate called Beautiful. He was placed there to beg for money from those entering the temple. His condition was lifelong, his hope was limited, and his expectation was small. But on this day, everything changed. Through the authority of Jesus' name, Peter and John offer him something far greater than silver or gold. The miracle that follows becomes a testimony to the power of Christ and a sign that His ministry continues through His Spirit-empowered people.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 3:1–10**. Picture Peter and John walking toward the temple. Imagine the lame man sitting at the gate, expecting nothing more than a few coins. See the moment when Peter speaks with authority, the man rises to his feet, and joy fills the temple courts. As you read, ask: What is the Spirit teaching me about compassion, faith, and the power of Jesus' name?

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–2:** Peter and John go to the temple at the hour of prayer. A man lame from birth is carried daily to the gate to beg.
- This scene shows the rhythm of early believers: prayer, worship, and compassion. The lame man represents human brokenness, helplessness, and the longing for hope.

💡 Lesson: God often works in the ordinary moments of our daily obedience.

🔍 Reflection: Do I approach my daily routines with openness to how God might use me?

- **Verses 3–5:** The man asks Peter and John for money. Peter looks straight at him and says, Look at us. The man gives them his attention, expecting to receive something.
- Peter does not ignore him. He sees him. He acknowledges his dignity. The man expects coins, but God intends to give him far more.

💡 Lesson: Compassion begins with seeing people as God sees them.

🔍 Reflection: Do I truly notice the needs around me, or do I pass by without attention?

- **Verse 6:** "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."
- Peter offers not money but the authority of Jesus' name. The miracle is not in Peter's power but in Christ's power working through him.

💡 Lesson: What we have in Christ is greater than what we lack in resources.

🔍 Reflection: Do I believe that the name of Jesus carries real power to transform lives?

- **Verses 7–8:** Peter takes him by the hand, helps him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles become strong. He jumps to his feet, walks, and enters the temple praising God.
- The healing is instant, complete, and undeniable. The man's response is joy, worship, and public testimony.

💡 Lesson: When God restores, He restores fully and for His glory.

🔍 Reflection: How has God lifted me up, and do I respond with joyful praise?

- **Verses 9–10:** All the people see him walking and praising God. They recognise him as the man who used to sit begging at the gate. They are filled with wonder and amazement.
- The miracle becomes a witness to the community. The transformation is visible, undeniable, and God glorifying.

💡 Lesson: A changed life is one of the most powerful testimonies of the gospel.

🔍 Reflection: Does my life reflect the transforming work of Christ to those around me?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." – *Acts 3:6*

This verse captures the heart of the passage. It reveals the compassion of Christ, the authority of His name, and the truth that spiritual power is greater than material resources. It reminds us that God uses ordinary believers to bring extraordinary transformation when they act in faith and rely on the power of Jesus.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, I thank You for the powerful truth revealed in this passage. You are the risen Lord whose name carries authority, healing, and hope. Thank You for showing me that You work through ordinary moments and willing hearts.

Forgive me for the times I have overlooked the needs around me or relied on my own resources instead of Your power. Give me eyes to see people with compassion and a heart ready to respond in faith.

Holy Spirit, fill me with boldness, sensitivity, and confidence in the name of Jesus. Teach me to offer what I have in Christ, even when I feel inadequate. Use my life as an instrument of Your grace, healing, and love.

Lord, help me to walk in obedience, to trust Your power, and to bring glory to Your name. May my life reflect the joy, transformation, and praise seen in the man who was healed. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 3:1–10

Theme: The Transforming Power of Christ

🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to quiet your spirit before the Lord. Reflect on the scene of Peter and John walking toward the temple, unaware that God is about to use them in a remarkable way. Consider the lame man sitting at the gate, expecting nothing more than a few coins, yet about to encounter the transforming power of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you not only understand this passage but to allow its truth to shape your compassion, your faith, and your readiness to be used by God.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 3:1–10** again. Let each verse remind you of the compassion of Christ, the authority of His name, and the way the Spirit works through ordinary believers. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart about your own walk with Christ and your willingness to be His instrument of grace.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 3:2** "Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts." This man's condition was lifelong and hopeless from a human perspective. He was carried daily to the same place, living with limited expectations. His situation reflects the brokenness & helplessness that only Christ can truly heal.
- **Acts 3:4** "Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, 'Look at us!'" Peter does not ignore the man. He sees him with compassion and dignity. This moment shows the heart of Christ expressed through His followers. Before the miracle comes attention, compassion, and connection.
- **Acts 3:6** "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Peter offers something far greater than money. He offers the authority and power of Jesus' name. This verse reveals that spiritual power is greater than material resources and that Christ continues His ministry through His people.

- **Acts 3:7** "Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong." Peter not only speaks but acts. He reaches out his hand in faith. The healing is immediate and complete. This shows that Christ's power restores fully and transforms lives in ways human effort never can.
- **Acts 3:9** "When all the people saw him walking and praising God…" The miracle becomes a public testimony. The man's transformation leads to worship, joy, and amazement among all who witnessed it. A changed life becomes a powerful witness to the reality of Christ.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God works through ordinary moments of obedience.** Peter and John were going to pray, yet God used their availability to bring transformation. The Spirit often moves in the everyday rhythms of life.
2. **Compassion opens the door for God's power.** Peter saw the man, acknowledged him, and treated him with dignity. True ministry begins with seeing people as God sees them.
3. **What we have in Christ is greater than what we lack materially.** Peter had no silver or gold, yet he possessed something far more valuable: the authority of Jesus' name. God uses willing hearts more than abundant resources.
4. **Faith requires both words and action.** Peter spoke boldly, then reached out his hand. Faith is expressed through obedience, courage, and practical steps.
5. **A transformed life becomes a testimony.** The healed man's joy and praise drew the attention of everyone around him. When Christ changes us, others notice, and God is glorified.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 3 verses 1 to 10 reveal the compassion of Christ and the power of His name working through His Spirit-filled people.
- Peter and John encounter a man whose life had been marked by helplessness and limitation. Through faith in Jesus, this man is healed instantly and completely. His transformation becomes a testimony that draws the attention & amazement of all who see him.

- This passage teaches us that God uses ordinary believers, simple moments, and willing hearts to accomplish extraordinary things.
- The name of Jesus carries authority, healing, and hope. Compassion, faith, and obedience open the way for God's power to be displayed. A life touched by Christ becomes a living witness to His grace.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I approach my daily routines with openness to how God might use me?
- Am I seeing people with compassion, or am I too distracted to notice their needs?
- Do I believe in the power and authority of Jesus' name in my own life?
- Am I willing to step out in faith, even when I feel inadequate?
- Does my life reflect the joy and transformation that Christ has worked in me?

📖 Memory Verse

"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." – *Acts 3:6*

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for revealing Your healing power and compassion through this passage. Thank You that in the name of Jesus, lives are restored and hope is renewed. Help me to trust in Your power and to believe that You are still at work in every situation.

Lord Jesus, teach me to walk in faith and to depend on You in every need. Give me a heart that looks beyond limitations and sees Your ability to restore and transform. Help me to be an instrument of Your grace, bringing encouragement, kindness, and hope to those around me.

Holy Spirit, fill me with sensitivity and boldness to act when You prompt me. Guide my words and actions so that I may reflect the love and power of Christ. Let my life point others to You, and may everything I do bring glory to Your name. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 3:11–26

Theme: **The Call to Repentance and Restoration**

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Lay aside every distraction and invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this powerful passage. Today we witness Peter's Spirit-filled explanation of the miracle that has just taken place. The healed man is clinging to Peter and John, the crowd is gathering in amazement, and Peter seizes the moment to point everyone to Jesus. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to His glory, His mercy, and His desire to bring spiritual restoration to all who turn to Him.

Introduction & Background

After the miraculous healing of the man who had been lame from birth, a large crowd gathers in the temple courts. The people are astonished, recognising the man who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate. They rush toward Peter and John, filled with wonder. But instead of receiving attention or praise, Peter immediately redirects their focus to Jesus.

This passage contains Peter's second recorded sermon in Acts. It is a message filled with clarity, conviction, and compassion. Peter explains that the miracle is not the result of human power or godliness but the work of the risen Christ. He confronts the people with their rejection of Jesus, yet offers them hope through repentance and faith. He reminds them that Jesus is the promised Messiah foretold by the prophets and that God desires to bless them by turning them from their sins.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 3:11–26**. Picture the healed man standing beside Peter and John, overflowing with joy. Imagine the crowd gathering in amazement. Hear Peter's bold yet compassionate voice as he explains the miracle and calls the people to repentance. As you read, ask: What is the Spirit teaching me about Christ, about repentance, and about God's desire to restore?

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 11–12:** The healed man holds on to Peter and John as the crowd gathers in amazement. Peter immediately addresses them, asking why they stare at him as though the miracle came from human power or godliness.
- Peter refuses to take credit. He redirects the crowd's attention to God.

💡 Lesson: True ministry always points people to Christ, not to ourselves.
🔍 Reflection: Do I desire recognition, or do I direct glory to God?

- **Verses 13–15:** Peter boldly declares that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has glorified His servant Jesus. He confronts the people with their rejection of Christ, reminding them that they handed Him over, disowned Him, and asked for a murderer instead. Yet God raised Him from the dead, and the apostles are witnesses of this truth.
- Peter speaks truthfully but with compassion, showing that the gospel exposes sin before offering healing.

💡 Lesson: The gospel confronts us with our sin so that we may receive God's mercy.
🔍 Reflection: Do I allow God's truth to convict me, or do I avoid uncomfortable realities?

- **Verse 16:** "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong."
- Peter explains that the miracle happened through faith in Jesus' name. The power is Christ's, not theirs. The healed man stands before them as living proof of the risen Lord.

💡 Lesson: Faith in Jesus brings transformation that human effort cannot achieve.
🔍 Reflection: Am I placing my trust in Christ's power or in my own strength?

- **Verses 17–18:** Peter acknowledges that the people acted in ignorance, as did their leaders. Yet God fulfilled what He foretold through the prophets, that the Messiah would suffer.
- Peter's words show both compassion and clarity. He does not excuse sin, but he recognises their lack of understanding and points them to

God's redemptive plan.

💡 Lesson: God's grace meets us even in our ignorance and failure.

🔍 Reflection: Do I recognise God's mercy in the areas where I have fallen short?

- **Verses 19–20:** "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."
- Peter calls the people to repentance, promising forgiveness and spiritual renewal. Repentance is not punishment but the doorway to restoration and refreshing.

💡 Lesson: Repentance leads to renewal, freedom, and spiritual refreshing.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to turn from anything that hinders my walk with God?

- **Verses 21–24:** Peter explains that Jesus must remain in heaven until the time of final restoration. He reminds them that Moses and all the prophets spoke of this Messiah.
- The gospel is not a new idea but the fulfilment of God's ancient promises.

💡 Lesson: God's plan of salvation is consistent, trustworthy, and rooted in His Word.

🔍 Reflection: Do I anchor my faith in the truth of Scripture?

- **Verses 25–26:** Peter concludes by reminding them that they are heirs of the covenant God made with Abraham. God sent His servant Jesus first to them to bless them by turning them from their wicked ways.
- God's desire is not judgment but blessing, restoration, and transformation.

💡 Lesson: God's heart is to bless, restore, and turn us toward life.

🔍 Reflection: Do I see repentance as God's invitation to blessing?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." – *Acts 3:19*

This verse captures the heart of Peter's message. It reveals God's desire to forgive, restore, and refresh His people. Repentance is not a burden but a blessing, opening the way for spiritual renewal and deeper fellowship with God.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I thank You for the truth revealed in this passage. You are the risen Lord who heals, restores, and calls Your people to repentance. Thank You for showing me that Your desire is not to condemn but to bless and renew.

Forgive me for the times I have resisted Your conviction or ignored Your call to turn back to You. Cleanse my heart and lead me into deeper repentance, obedience, and faith. Help me to honour You in every area of my life.

Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the transforming power of Jesus' name. Fill me with boldness to point others to Christ, compassion to speak truth in love, and humility to give glory to God alone. Refresh my spirit and renew my devotion to Your Word.

Lord, let my life be a testimony of Your grace and truth. Use me to bring hope, healing, and blessing to others. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 3:11–26

Theme: The Call to Repentance and Restoration

🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to quiet your spirit before the Lord. Picture the healed man standing beside Peter and John, overflowing with joy. Imagine the crowd gathering in amazement, eager to understand what has happened. Reflect on Peter's boldness as he redirects their attention away from human ability and toward the risen Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you receive this passage with humility, openness, and a desire for deeper repentance and restoration in your own life.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 3:11–26** again. Let each verse remind you that miracles are signs pointing to Christ, that the gospel confronts before it comforts, and that God's heart is to restore all who turn to Him. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart about repentance, renewal, and your calling to point others to Jesus.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 3:12** "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?" Peter immediately removes attention from himself. He refuses to take credit for the miracle. His humility teaches us that true ministry always points people to Christ, not to human ability.
- **Acts 3:13** "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus." Peter roots the miracle in God's covenant faithfulness. Jesus is the promised Servant whom God has exalted. The healing is a sign that God's redemptive plan is unfolding through Christ.
- **Acts 3:15** "You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this." Peter speaks with bold clarity. He confronts the people with their rejection of Jesus, yet he also proclaims the hope of the resurrection. Christ, the Author of life, is alive and working.
- **Acts 3:16** "By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong." Peter explains that the miracle

happened through faith in Jesus' name. The healed man is living evidence of Christ's power and presence.

- **Acts 3:19** "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." This is the heart of Peter's message. Repentance is not condemnation but invitation. God desires to wipe away sin and bring spiritual refreshing to all who turn to Him.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **Miracles point to Christ, not to people.** Peter refused to accept praise. He used the moment to exalt Jesus. True ministry always directs attention to the Lord.
2. **The gospel confronts us with truth before offering restoration.** Peter boldly addressed the people's rejection of Jesus. God's Word exposes sin so that healing and renewal can follow.
3. **Faith in Jesus brings transformation.** The healed man stood as undeniable proof of Christ's power. Faith in Jesus still brings spiritual, emotional, and relational restoration today.
4. **Repentance opens the door to refreshing.** Peter's call to repent reveals God's heart. He longs to forgive, restore, and renew His people. Repentance is a gift that leads to freedom.
5. **God's plan is rooted in His promises.** Peter connects Jesus to the prophets and the covenant with Abraham. God's work in our lives is grounded in His unchanging Word and faithful character.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 3 verses 11 to 26 reveal Peter's Spirit-empowered explanation of the miracle at the temple gate. He boldly proclaims that the healing was not due to human power but the work of the risen Christ. Peter confronts the people with their rejection of Jesus, yet he offers them hope through repentance and faith.
- This passage teaches us that God desires to restore, refresh, and bless His people. Repentance is not a burden but an invitation to renewal.
- The gospel calls us to turn from sin and embrace the life that Christ

offers. Just as the healed man stood as a testimony of God's power, our lives are meant to reflect the transforming grace of Jesus.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I point others to Christ, or do I seek recognition for myself?
- Am I allowing God's Word to confront areas of sin or resistance in my heart?
- Do I truly believe that repentance leads to refreshing and renewal?
- Am I living as a witness to the transforming power of Jesus?
- How can I respond more fully to God's call to repentance and restoration?

📖 Memory Verse

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." – *Acts 3:19*

This verse captures the heart of Peter's message. It reveals God's desire to forgive, restore, and refresh His people. Repentance is not a burden but a blessing, opening the way for spiritual renewal and deeper fellowship with God.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the truth revealed in this passage. You are the God who confronts sin not to condemn but to restore. Thank You for calling me to repentance so that I may experience Your forgiveness and refreshing.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have resisted Your conviction or ignored Your call to turn back to You. Cleanse my heart and renew my spirit. Help me to honour You in every area of my life and to live as a faithful witness of Your grace.

Holy Spirit, open my eyes to the transforming power of Jesus' name. Fill me with humility, boldness, and compassion. Teach me to point others to Christ and to walk daily in repentance, obedience, and faith. Lord, let my life reflect the restoration You desire to bring. Use me to bring hope, healing, and blessing to others. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 2 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: The Power of the Risen Christ & the Life of the Spirit-filled Church

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Throughout this week we have reflected on waiting, prayer, unity, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Today we rest while meditating on the powerful continuation of God's work through the early Church as seen in Acts chapter 2 verses 22 to 47 and Acts chapter 3. These passages reveal the bold proclamation of Christ, the transforming power of repentance, the beauty of Spirit-filled fellowship, and the authority of Jesus working through His apostles.

Peter's message declares that Jesus, who was crucified, is risen and exalted as Lord and Messiah. Through the conviction of the Holy Spirit, hearts were pierced, leading many to repentance, baptism, and new life. The early believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer, living in unity, generosity, and sincere worship. This shows that the presence of the Holy Spirit does not only produce spiritual experiences, but also transforms daily life, relationships, and community.

In Acts chapter 3, we see the healing of the lame man through the name of Jesus, reminding us that the power of the risen Christ continues to work through His people. Peter makes it clear that the miracle is not by human strength but by faith in the name of Jesus. He calls the people to repentance and turning back to God so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. These chapters together reveal key truths that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, repentance brings restoration, faith releases God's power, and a Spirit-filled life produces worship, compassion, unity, and bold witness.

As we rest today, we remember that the same Jesus who was preached by Peter is alive and reigning, and the same Holy Spirit who transformed the early Church is at work in us. The Church was born through the Word, sustained by fellowship, and empowered by the Spirit. Our rest is not passive, but a quiet confidence in God's continuing work within us and through us.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the truth revealed in Your Word and for the powerful witness of the early Church. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to convict hearts, transform lives, and build a community that reflects Your love and holiness. As I meditate on the preaching of Christ, the repentance of believers, and the life of the Spirit-filled Church, help me to rest in the assurance that You are still working in my life today.

Lord Jesus, I acknowledge You as the risen Lord and Saviour, exalted and full of power. Forgive me for the times I have taken Your sacrifice lightly or lived without full surrender to Your lordship. Help me to walk in true repentance, turning away from sin and drawing closer to You with a sincere and obedient heart. Let my faith be rooted not in my own ability, but in the power of Your name.

Holy Spirit, renew me and refresh my soul as I rest in Your presence today. Produce in me a heart that is devoted to Your Word, sincere fellowship, prayer, and worship. Remove every spiritual dryness, distraction, and complacency, and fill me with a deeper hunger for God. Shape my life so that I may reflect the love, unity, generosity, and faith that marked the early believers.

Lord, let times of refreshing come from Your presence. Heal the areas of my life that are weak, strengthen my faith where it is fragile, and restore my joy where it has faded. Teach me to live a Spirit-led life that glorifies Jesus in my thoughts, actions, and relationships.

As I enter a new week, help me to walk in boldness, humility, and obedience. May my life be a testimony of the risen Christ, my words reflect Your truth, and my actions reveal Your grace. Let the power of the Holy Spirit guide me, the Word of God anchor me, and the presence of Christ sustain me each day. In the name of Jesus, I rest, commit, and surrender my life to You. **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 4:1–22

Theme: Bold Witness in the Power of the Name of Jesus

🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to come before the Lord with reverence and openness. Set aside every distraction and invite the Holy Spirit to speak deeply to your heart. In today's passage, we see the early disciples facing opposition immediately after a powerful miracle and bold proclamation of Christ. Yet instead of fear, they respond with courage, clarity, and unwavering faith in Jesus. Ask the Lord to strengthen your spirit so that you may understand what it means to stand firm in faith even in the face of resistance.

Introduction & Background

Following the healing of the lame man and Peter's sermon in the temple courts, the message of Jesus begins to spread rapidly among the people. Many believe, but the religious leaders become disturbed and threatened. The apostles are not preaching human philosophy but proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus and salvation in His name. This challenges the authority and control of the religious establishment.

Peter and John are arrested and brought before the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law. What unfolds is not merely a legal questioning, but a spiritual confrontation between human authority and divine truth. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly testifies that the miracle and salvation come through Jesus Christ alone. This passage reveals the cost of discipleship, the courage produced by the Holy Spirit, and the unstoppable power of the gospel.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 4:1–22**. Picture the temple courts, the astonished crowd, the sudden arrest, and the apostles standing before powerful leaders. Imagine the tension in the room as Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, speaks with boldness and conviction. As you read, ask yourself what this passage teaches you about courage, faith, and the authority of Jesus' name in the life of a believer.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–4:** While Peter and John are speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees confront them. They are greatly disturbed because the apostles are teaching about the resurrection of Jesus and proclaiming new life through Him.
- The leaders arrest them, yet despite opposition, many who hear the message believe, and the number of believers grows significantly.

💡 Lesson: The gospel may face resistance, but God's Word continues to transform hearts and bring people to faith. Opposition cannot stop the work of God.

🔍 Reflection: When I face challenges in my faith, do I remain faithful to God's truth or become discouraged by resistance?

- **Verses 5–7:** The next day, Peter and John are brought before the rulers, elders, and teachers of the law, including the high priestly family. They are questioned about the source of their power and authority in performing the miracle.
- The focus of the leaders is not on the healing itself but on controlling the influence of the apostles.

💡 Lesson: The world often questions and resists the authority of Christ when His power is clearly revealed. True faith will be tested in moments of scrutiny.

🔍 Reflection: How do I respond when my faith is questioned or challenged by others?

- **Verses 8–12:** Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter boldly declares that the healing of the lame man came through the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they crucified and whom God raised from the dead.
- He proclaims that Jesus is the cornerstone rejected by the builders and clearly states that salvation is found in no one else.

💡 Lesson: The Holy Spirit gives believers courage, clarity, and boldness to testify about Jesus even in difficult situations. True salvation is found only in Christ.

🔍 Reflection: Am I confident in proclaiming Jesus as the only source of salvation in my life and witness?

- **Verses 13–17:** The leaders are astonished at the boldness of Peter and John, recognising that they are ordinary men who have been with Jesus. Seeing the healed man standing with them, they cannot deny the miracle, yet they decide to silence the apostles to prevent the message from spreading further.

💡 Lesson: A life that has been with Jesus reflects courage and spiritual authority, even without worldly status or education. God uses ordinary people for extraordinary purposes.

🔍 Reflection: Does my daily walk with Jesus shape my character and boldness in my faith?

- **Verses 18–22:** The leaders command Peter and John not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. However, the apostles respond with unwavering conviction, declaring that they must obey God rather than human authority.
- Unable to punish them due to public support and the undeniable miracle, the leaders release them, while the people continue glorifying God.

💡 Lesson: Obedience to God must remain above fear of human opinion or pressure. Faithfulness sometimes requires courage to stand firm in truth.

🔍 Reflection: When faced with pressure to compromise my faith, do I choose obedience to God or approval from others?

📖 Memory Verse

> "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." – *Acts 4:12*

This verse highlights the central truth of the gospel that Jesus alone is the source of salvation, healing, and eternal life. It reminds us that our faith is anchored in the authority and power of His name.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the powerful example of bold faith shown by Peter and John. Thank You for reminding me that the name of Jesus is above all authority, opposition, and fear. Strengthen my heart so that I may stand firm in my faith even when I face challenges or resistance.

Lord Jesus, You are the cornerstone and the only source of salvation. Forgive me for the times I have remained silent out of fear or hesitation. Fill me with courage to speak Your truth with love, humility, and conviction. Help me to live in a way that reflects that I have truly been with You.

Holy Spirit, fill me as You filled the apostles with boldness and wisdom. Remove fear, doubt, and compromise from my heart. Teach me to obey God above all else and to trust in Your power rather than my own strength.

Let my life be a testimony of Your grace, truth, and saving power. Use my words, actions, and faith to bring glory to the name of Jesus. Help me to stand firm, remain faithful, and walk in obedience no matter the circumstances. In the name of Jesus, I pray, **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 4:1–22

Theme: Bold Witness in the Power of the Name of Jesus

🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to quiet your spirit in the presence of the Lord. Picture Peter and John standing before the religious leaders, not with fear but with Spirit given courage. Imagine the healed man standing beside them as living evidence of Christ's power. Reflect on how the gospel continued to advance even in the face of opposition. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a heart that is steady, faithful, and bold in your witness for Jesus.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 4:1–22** again. Notice the tension between human authority and divine truth. Observe how the apostles remain calm, courageous, and unwavering because they are filled with the Holy Spirit. As you read, allow the Spirit to remind you that the name of Jesus carries power, salvation, and authority over every circumstance.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 4:2** "They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead." The leaders were troubled not by the miracle itself but by the message of the risen Christ. The proclamation of Jesus challenges human pride and religious control, yet it is the central truth of the gospel.
- **Acts 4:8** "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people!'" This verse highlights the source of Peter's boldness. His courage did not come from personal strength or education but from the filling of the Holy Spirit, who gave him wisdom and clarity to speak truth in a moment of pressure.
- **Acts 4:10** "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed." Peter boldly testifies that the miracle is entirely the work of Jesus. He does not soften the truth but clearly proclaims both the crucifixion and the resurrection, pointing all glory to Christ alone.

- **Acts 4:12** "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." This verse reveals the exclusivity and sufficiency of Jesus for salvation. It reminds believers that true hope, redemption, and eternal life are found only in Him.
- **Acts 4:19–20** "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." Peter and John declare their unwavering commitment to God's truth. Their response shows that obedience to God must remain above fear of human authority or opposition.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **The gospel will sometimes face opposition.** Just as the apostles were confronted for preaching Christ, believers today may encounter resistance when living and sharing their faith. Yet opposition does not mean failure, but often confirms that God's truth is being proclaimed.
2. **The Holy Spirit gives courage in difficult moments.** Peter's boldness came from being filled with the Holy Spirit. When we depend on the Spirit, He strengthens our hearts, guides our words, and helps us stand firm even under pressure.
3. **The name of Jesus carries power and authority.** The healing of the lame man and the apostles' testimony both point to the authority of Jesus' name. Our confidence in life and ministry should rest not in ourselves but in Christ's power.
4. **True salvation is found only in Christ.** Peter clearly declares that there is no other name by which we are saved. This truth calls us to place our complete trust in Jesus and to share this hope with humility and conviction.
5. **Obedience to God must come before fear of people.** The apostles chose faithfulness over approval. Their example teaches us to remain steadfast in truth, even when it is uncomfortable or unpopular.

3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 4:1 to 22 reveals a powerful moment where the gospel is boldly proclaimed in the face of opposition. Peter and John are arrested and questioned by religious leaders who are disturbed by the message of Jesus' resurrection. Yet, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter speaks with clarity, courage, and conviction, declaring that the miracle and salvation both come through the name of Jesus Christ.
- The leaders recognise the boldness of the apostles and cannot deny the miracle, yet they attempt to silence them. Instead of yielding to fear, Peter and John affirm their commitment to obey God and continue speaking about what they have seen and heard.
- This passage teaches that a life transformed by Jesus cannot remain silent and that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to stand firm in truth.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I remain bold in my faith when I face opposition or pressure from others?
- Am I depending on the Holy Spirit for courage and wisdom in my daily life?
- Do I truly believe in the saving power and authority of the name of Jesus?
- Am I more concerned about pleasing people or obeying God?
- How can I become a more faithful and courageous witness for Christ in my surroundings?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." – *Acts 4:12*

This verse highlights the central truth of the gospel that Jesus alone is the source of salvation, healing, and eternal life. It reminds us that our faith is anchored in the authority and power of His name.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the powerful reminder that salvation and hope are found only in the name of Jesus. Strengthen my heart so that I may stand firm in faith even when I face challenges, doubts, or opposition. Help me to trust Your truth above every human opinion or fear.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have remained silent when I should have spoken about You. Cleanse my heart from fear, hesitation, and compromise. Fill me with a deeper love for Your name and a greater desire to honour You in my words and actions.

Holy Spirit, fill me with boldness, wisdom, and spiritual courage just as You filled the apostles. Guide my thoughts, strengthen my faith, and help me to speak truth with humility and love. Teach me to rely on Your power rather than my own strength.

Lord, make my life a living testimony of Your saving grace. Help me to obey You faithfully, trust You completely, and witness for You courageously in every area of my life. May my heart remain steadfast, my faith unwavering, and my voice faithful to the truth of the gospel. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 4:23–37

Theme: Unity, Prayer, and Generosity in the Power of the Holy Spirit

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to come before the Lord with a surrendered and attentive heart. Lay aside every burden, distraction, and concern, and invite the Holy Spirit to calm your thoughts and open your spirit. In today's passage, the early believers respond to threats not with fear but with prayer, unity, and deeper trust in God's sovereignty. Ask the Lord to teach you what it means to rely on Him fully, to pray with bold faith, and to live in unity and generosity with others.

Introduction & Background

After being released from the council, Peter and John return to the community of believers and report everything that had happened. Instead of reacting with anxiety or discouragement, the church gathers in prayer and lifts their voices together to God. Their prayer is rooted in Scripture, grounded in God's sovereignty, and focused not on personal safety but on boldness to continue proclaiming His Word.

This passage reveals the spiritual maturity of the early church. They understood that opposition was not a surprise but part of God's redemptive plan. As they pray, the place where they are gathered is shaken, and they are filled again with the Holy Spirit, speaking the Word of God with boldness.

The passage then shifts to describe the unity and generosity among the believers. Their hearts were united, their possessions were shared, and their lives reflected the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 4:23–37**. Picture the believers gathered together, lifting their voices in unified prayer. Imagine their confidence in God despite the threats they faced. See the place shaken by God's presence and the community living in deep unity and generosity. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal how prayer, unity, and surrender shape a Spirit-led life.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 23–24:** After their release, Peter and John return to the believers and share all that the chief priests and elders had said. The believers immediately lift their voices together in prayer, acknowledging God as the Sovereign Creator of heaven and earth.

💡 Lesson: A Spirit-led response to opposition begins with prayer and trust in God's sovereignty rather than fear or panic.

🔍 Reflection: Do I turn to God first in prayer when I face challenges or uncertainty?

- **Verses 25–28:** The believers recall the words of Scripture and recognise that the opposition against Jesus was foretold and allowed within God's divine plan. They acknowledge that even human resistance cannot overthrow God's purposes.

💡 Lesson: God's plans remain unshaken even when the world opposes His truth. He works through every circumstance to fulfil His will.

🔍 Reflection: Do I trust that God is in control even when situations seem difficult or threatening?

- **Verse 29–31:** Instead of praying for protection from hardship, the believers ask for boldness to speak God's Word and for His power to continue working through them.
- God responds by shaking the place where they are gathered, filling them with the Holy Spirit and empowering them to speak with courage.

💡 Lesson: True prayer seeks boldness, faithfulness, and empowerment rather than comfort alone. The Holy Spirit strengthens believers for their calling.

🔍 Reflection: Are my prayers focused on comfort or on courage to fulfil God's purpose?

- **Verses 32–35:** The community of believers is described as being of one heart and mind. They share their possessions freely, ensuring that no one among them is in need. The apostles continue to testify powerfully about the resurrection of Jesus, and God's grace is evident among them all.

💡 Lesson: The work of the Holy Spirit produces unity, compassion, and generosity within the body of Christ.

🔍 Reflection: Does my life reflect unity, compassion, and a willingness to support others in love?

- **Verses 36–37:** Barnabas is introduced as an example of sacrificial generosity. He sells a field and lays the money at the apostles' feet to support the needs of the community. His actions demonstrate a heart transformed by the Spirit and committed to God's kingdom.

💡 Lesson: A surrendered heart willingly uses its resources for God's purposes and the blessing of others.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to surrender my resources, time, and abilities for God's work and the needs of His people?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." – *Acts 4:32*

This verse highlights the beauty of Spirit-filled unity and generosity, showing that when hearts are surrendered to God, love and selflessness naturally flow within the community of believers.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the example of the early church who responded to opposition with prayer, unity, and unwavering faith. Teach me to trust in Your sovereignty and to turn to You first in every situation. Help me not to be ruled by fear but to stand firm in faith and confidence in Your perfect plan.

Lord Jesus, shape my heart to reflect Your love and humility. Forgive me for the times I have been self focused, fearful, or hesitant in my faith. Unite my heart with Your will and help me to live in harmony with others, showing compassion, kindness, and generosity in all that I do.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh today. Empower me to pray with boldness, to speak Your Word with courage, and to live in unity with those around me. Remove selfishness, pride, and fear from my heart, and replace them with love, surrender, and joyful obedience. Teach me to be generous in spirit, in service, and in resources. **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 4:23–37

Theme: Unity, Prayer, and Generosity in the Power of the Holy Spirit

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a moment to quiet your spirit in the presence of the Lord. Picture the believers gathered together after Peter and John return from facing opposition. Instead of fear, imagine their hearts lifted in unified prayer, trusting fully in God's sovereignty. Reflect on the place being shaken as God responds to their prayer and fills them again with the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a heart that trusts God deeply, prays boldly, and lives in unity and love with others.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 4:23–37** again. Notice how the believers respond to threats with worship and Scripture rooted prayer. Observe their request not for safety, but for boldness to continue speaking God's Word. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to show you how true spiritual strength is revealed through prayer, unity, and generosity.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 4:24** "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them." The believers begin their prayer by acknowledging God's supreme authority as Creator. Their focus on His sovereignty reveals deep trust that He is in control over every circumstance, including opposition and uncertainty.
- **Acts 4:29** "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Instead of praying for protection from hardship, they ask for courage to remain faithful. This shows a spiritually mature faith that values obedience and witness above personal comfort.
- **Acts 4:31** "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." God's powerful response confirms His presence among them. The filling of the Holy Spirit strengthens their courage and empowers them to proclaim the Word with confidence and clarity.
- **Acts 4:32** "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared

everything they had." The work of the Holy Spirit produces deep unity and selflessness within the community. Their shared life reflects hearts transformed by God's love and grace.

- **Acts 4:33** "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." The central message of the early church remains the resurrection of Jesus. Their witness is marked by spiritual power and abundant grace flowing through their lives.
- **Acts 4:36–37** "Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet." Barnabas becomes a living example of generosity & encouragement. His actions demonstrate a surrendered heart that prioritises God's kingdom and the needs of others.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **Prayer should be our first response in every situation.** The early believers did not react with fear when faced with threats, but turned immediately to God in unified prayer, showing that spiritual strength begins in dependence on Him.
2. **Trust in God's sovereignty brings peace in uncertainty.** By acknowledging God as Creator and Ruler over all, the believers found confidence even in opposition, reminding us that nothing happens outside His control.
3. **The Holy Spirit empowers boldness and faithfulness.** Their renewed filling of the Spirit enabled them to continue speaking God's Word courageously, teaching us that true boldness comes from the Spirit, not human strength.
4. **Unity is a mark of a Spirit-filled community.** Being one in heart and mind allowed the believers to reflect Christ's love, demonstrating that spiritual maturity is expressed through harmony, humility, and mutual care.
5. **Generosity flows from transformed hearts.** The believers willingly shared their resources, showing that when the Holy Spirit works within us, He produces compassion, selflessness, and a desire to bless others.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- These verses reveal how the early church responded to opposition with prayer, unity, and unwavering trust in God's sovereignty. Rather than asking for an easier path, they prayed for boldness to continue proclaiming His Word. God answered their prayer by filling them with the Holy Spirit and strengthening their witness.
- The passage also highlights the deep unity and generosity among the believers. Their hearts were aligned, their lives were surrendered, and God's grace was powerfully at work among them

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I turn to prayer first when I face challenges or uncertainty?
- Am I trusting in God's sovereignty over every area of my life?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to fill me with boldness to live and speak for Christ?
- Does my life reflect unity, love, and compassion toward others?
- Am I living with a generous heart that seeks to bless and serve God's people?

📖 Memory Verse

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had." – *Acts 4:32*

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your presence, Your grace, and the work of Your Spirit in my life. Today I surrender my heart, my thoughts, and my plans fully to You. Forgive me for my weaknesses, my doubts, and the times I have relied on my own strength instead of trusting You. Fill me afresh with Your Holy Spirit, guide my steps, and shape my character to reflect Your love, unity, and obedience. Help me to live with bold faith, a humble heart, and a generous spirit that honours You in all I do. I commit my life, my words, and my actions into Your hands, trusting Your will and desiring to glorify You in every area of my life. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 5:1–16

Theme: Reverence, Integrity, and the Fear of the Lord in the Early Church

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Take a quiet moment to come before the Lord with humility and sincerity. Ask Him to search your heart and reveal anything that is not fully surrendered to Him. In today's passage, we witness both the holiness and the power of God at work within the early church. We see the seriousness of sin, the importance of integrity, and the continued growth of the church through signs and wonders. Invite the Holy Spirit to cultivate in you a deep reverence for God and a desire to walk in truth before Him.

Introduction & Background

The early church was experiencing remarkable unity, generosity, and spiritual power. Believers were sharing their possessions and living with one heart and mind. God's grace was evident among them, and the apostles were boldly testifying to the resurrection of Jesus.

However, as the church grew, it also faced internal challenges. Acts 5 verses 1 to 16 presents a sobering account of Ananias and Sapphira, who chose deception instead of honesty before God. Their story highlights the seriousness of hypocrisy and the holiness of God within His church.

At the same time, the passage also reveals the continued movement of the Holy Spirit. The apostles performed many signs and wonders, and more people believed in the Lord. The fear of the Lord spread among the people, and the church continued to grow in purity and power.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 5:1–16**. Reflect on the contrast between sincere generosity and hidden deceit. Notice how seriously God responds to dishonesty within His community. Observe also how the apostles continue to minister with power and how the people respond with awe and reverence. As you read, ask the Holy Spirit to teach you about integrity, holiness, and authentic faith.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–4:** Ananias and Sapphira sell a piece of property but secretly keep back part of the money while pretending to give the full amount.
- Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, confronts Ananias and reveals that his deception is not merely against people but against God.

💡 Lesson: God sees the heart. True generosity and worship must flow from sincerity, not from a desire for recognition or approval.
🔍 Reflection: Are there areas in my life where I am tempted to appear spiritual while hiding dishonesty in my heart?

- **Verses 5–11:** Ananias falls down and dies after Peter's confrontation. Later, Sapphira repeats the deception and also faces immediate judgment. Great fear comes upon the whole church and all who hear about these events.

💡 Lesson: God is holy and desires purity within His church. Sin, especially deliberate hypocrisy, is serious before Him. The fear of the Lord protects the integrity of the community.
🔍 Reflection: Do I maintain a healthy reverence for God's holiness in my daily walk?

- **Verses 12–14:** The apostles continue performing many signs and wonders among the people. The believers meet together in unity, and more men and women believe in the Lord.

💡 Lesson: Even in moments of correction and judgment, God continues His work. Purity within the church strengthens its witness and impact.
🔍 Reflection: Is my life contributing to the spiritual health and unity of my faith community?

- **Verses 15–16:** People bring the sick into the streets, hoping even Peter's shadow might fall on them. Crowds gather from surrounding towns, bringing the sick and those troubled by impure spirits, and all of them are healed.

💡 Lesson: The power of God moves mightily where there is reverence, obedience, and faith. The Holy Spirit confirms the message of Christ through acts of compassion and healing.
🔍 Reflection: Do I believe in God's power to work through a surrendered and obedient life?

📖 Memory Verse

"You have not lied just to human beings but to God." – *Acts 5:4*

This verse reminds us that our spiritual life is lived before God's presence and that integrity of heart is essential in our walk with Him.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for reminding me of Your holiness and truth. You see my heart completely, and nothing is hidden from You. Forgive me for any hypocrisy, pride, or dishonesty within me. Cleanse my heart and help me to walk in sincerity and integrity before You.

Lord Jesus, teach me to value truth above appearance and obedience above recognition. Shape my character so that my faith is genuine and my devotion wholehearted. Remove any desire for approval that competes with my desire to honour You.

Holy Spirit, fill me with a deep reverence for God and a sensitivity to conviction. Strengthen me to live transparently, faithfully, and courageously. Let my life reflect purity, humility, and trust in Your power. May Your presence be evident in my words, actions, and attitudes.

Lord, help me to live in a way that strengthens Your church and glorifies Your name. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 5:1–16

Theme: Reverence, Integrity, and the Fear of the Lord in the Early Church

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on the early church living in unity, generosity, and deep reverence for God's presence among them. Picture the believers gathered together, filled with awe as God works powerfully in their midst. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart, purify your motives, and help you walk in sincerity, holiness, and truth before God.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 5:1–16**. Notice the contrast between genuine surrender and hidden hypocrisy. Observe how seriously God responds to dishonesty within His church and how His power continues to move through the apostles with signs and wonders. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to remind you that God desires truth in the heart and a life that is fully surrendered to Him.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 5:3** "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit?" Peter reveals that deception within the church is not merely a warning against people but a serious offence against the Holy Spirit. This verse teaches that God sees beyond outward actions and examines the motives of the heart.
- **Acts 5:4** "You have not lied just to human beings but to God." This statement emphasises the divine nature of the Holy Spirit and the seriousness of dishonesty before God. It reminds believers that their spiritual life is lived in God's presence at all times.
- **Acts 5:9** "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?" Sapphira's participation in the deception shows how sin can grow when truth is ignored. This verse highlights the danger of deliberately resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 5:11** "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events." The response of the early church was not panic but reverence. The fear of the Lord brought spiritual awareness, purity, and renewed seriousness about living before God.

- **Acts 5:14** "Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number." Even in a moment of divine discipline, the church continued to grow. God's holiness and power strengthened the witness of the gospel rather than hindering it.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God desires sincerity over outward appearance.** The account of Ananias and Sapphira teaches that spiritual integrity matters more than public image. A genuine heart pleases God far more than impressive acts done for recognition.
2. **The Holy Spirit searches the heart.** We cannot hide our motives, thoughts, or intentions from God. Living in honesty and transparency before Him leads to spiritual freedom and deeper fellowship.
3. **The fear of the Lord produces spiritual maturity.** Reverence for God's holiness guards the church from hypocrisy and helps believers walk in obedience and truth.
4. **Holiness strengthens the witness of the church.** When the body of Christ lives in purity and unity, God's power is displayed more clearly through signs of grace, healing, and transformation.
5. **God's power continues where hearts are surrendered.** The apostles ministered with authority because they walked in obedience and dependence on the Holy Spirit. A surrendered life becomes a vessel for God's work.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 5:1-16 reveals both the holiness and the power of God within the early church. The account of Ananias and Sapphira shows the seriousness of hypocrisy and the importance of truth before God, while the continued miracles through the apostles demonstrate that the Holy Spirit was actively at work among sincere and surrendered believers.
- This passage teaches that God is not only loving but also holy, and His presence calls His people to integrity, reverence, and authenticity. As the church walked in unity and truth, the fear of the Lord spread among the people and many came to faith.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I living with honesty and sincerity before God in every area of my life?
- Do I maintain a healthy reverence for God's holiness in my daily walk?
- Is my faith motivated by genuine love for God or by the desire for approval?
- How can I cultivate a life of integrity, surrender, and spiritual authenticity?

📖 Memory Verse

"You have not lied just to human beings but to God." – *Acts 5:4*

This verse reminds us that our spiritual life is lived before God's presence and that integrity of heart is essential in our walk with Him.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for reminding me of Your holiness and Your presence in my life. Help me to walk before You with a sincere and truthful heart, free from hypocrisy and pride. Teach me to honour You not only in my outward actions but also in my inner thoughts and motives.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have allowed compromise, hidden sin, or the desire for approval to influence my spiritual life. Cleanse my heart and renew my spirit so that my faith may be genuine and pleasing to You. Strengthen me to live with integrity, humility, and wholehearted devotion.

Holy Spirit, search my heart and remove anything that is not aligned with Your will. Fill me with reverence for God, sensitivity to conviction, and a deep desire for holiness. Guide me to live in truth, obedience, and surrender each day.

Lord, let my life reflect purity, authenticity, and the transforming power of Your presence. Use me as a vessel of Your grace, truth, and love so that others may see Your work in me and be drawn closer to You. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 3 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: Holiness, Boldness, and the Life of a Spirit-filled Church

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Throughout this week we have journeyed through Acts chapter 4 and Acts chapter 5 verses 1 to 16, witnessing both the boldness and the purity of the early church. We saw Peter and John standing before religious authorities with courage that came not from human strength but from the filling of the Holy Spirit. Though threatened and commanded to remain silent, they chose obedience to God over fear of people. Their confidence rested in the name of Jesus, the risen Lord, who alone brings salvation.

After their release, the believers gathered in unity and lifted their voices in prayer. Instead of asking for protection from hardship, they asked for boldness to continue proclaiming God's Word. The Lord answered by filling them again with the Holy Spirit, shaking the place where they were gathered, and strengthening their witness. We also saw a beautiful picture of unity and generosity as the believers shared their possessions and cared for one another, demonstrating that a Spirit-filled church is marked not only by power but also by love and selflessness.

In Acts chapter 5 verses 1 to 16, we encountered a sobering reminder of God's holiness through the account of Ananias and Sapphira. Their deception revealed the danger of hypocrisy and the seriousness of dishonesty before God. The fear of the Lord came upon the church, preserving its purity and integrity. At the same time, the apostles continued to perform signs and wonders, and many were added to the Lord. These passages together teach us that the Spirit-filled church is both bold and holy, courageous in witness and sincere in heart.

As we rest today, we reflect on these truths. The risen Christ builds His church through the power of the Holy Spirit. He calls His people to stand firm in truth, to pray with confidence, to live in unity, and to walk in integrity. Our rest is found in knowing that God is both powerful and holy, gracious and just, and that He continues His transforming work within His people.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the powerful witness of the early church and for the truth revealed through these passages. Thank You for showing me that boldness flows from Your Spirit and that holiness flows from a heart surrendered to You. As I rest in Your presence today, help me to reflect on both Your power and Your purity in my life.

Lord Jesus, You are the risen and exalted Saviour, and salvation is found in You alone. Forgive me for the times I have allowed fear, compromise, or pride to influence my faith. Teach me to stand firm in truth, to obey You above all else, and to trust in the authority of Your name in every circumstance.

Holy Spirit, search my heart and remove anything that is not pleasing to You. Create in me a sincere and undivided heart. Fill me with boldness to witness, humility to serve, and reverence to walk in holiness. Guard me from hypocrisy and strengthen me to live with integrity before God and others.

As I enter a new week, help me to walk in unity, prayer, and generosity. Let my life reflect the beauty of a Spirit-filled believer who honours Christ in word and deed. May Your power sustain me, Your holiness guide me, and Your presence give me peace.

In the name of Jesus, I rest my heart in You and commit my life afresh to Your will. **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 5:17–42

Theme: Obedience to God and Rejoicing in Suffering for Christ

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord in stillness and humility. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your mind and open your heart to His Word. In today's passage, we witness the apostles facing jealousy, persecution, imprisonment, and threats because of their faithful witness to Jesus. Yet instead of fear or retreat, they continue to obey God with courage and joy. Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you what it means to remain faithful, obedient, and steadfast even when your faith is tested.

Introduction & Background

After the powerful growth of the early Church and the many signs and wonders performed through the apostles, the message of Jesus spreads widely among the people. Many are healed and drawn to the truth of the gospel. However, the increasing influence of the apostles stirs jealousy and anger among the religious leaders, especially the high priest and the Sadducees.

Rather than celebrating the works of God, they seek to silence the apostles by arresting them and placing them in public jail. Yet God intervenes through His divine power, demonstrating that no human authority can stop His purposes. This passage reveals the unstoppable nature of God's mission, the importance of obedience to God over human authority, and the joy that comes from suffering for the name of Jesus.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 5:17–42**. Picture the apostles preaching in the temple, the sudden arrest, the angel opening the prison doors, and the apostles returning to teach openly once again. Imagine the tension as they stand before the council and boldly declare their allegiance to God. As you read, reflect on what this passage teaches about courage, obedience, and faithfulness in the face of opposition.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 17–21:** The high priest and the Sadducees are filled with jealousy because of the apostles' growing influence and the many

miracles taking place.

- They arrest the apostles and put them in public prison. During the night, an angel of the Lord opens the prison doors and commands them to go back to the temple and continue proclaiming the message of life. Without hesitation, the apostles obey and begin teaching again at daybreak.

💡 Lesson: God's mission cannot be stopped by human opposition, and true obedience means continuing His work even after hardship.

🔍 Reflection: When God calls me to serve or speak, do I obey immediately or allow fear to hold me back?

- **Verses 22–26:** The officers discover that the prison is securely locked but the apostles are gone. When they are found teaching in the temple again, they are brought before the council, though carefully, because the people hold the apostles in high regard.
- This moment reveals that the message of God was already impacting many hearts.

💡 Lesson: When God is at work, even opposition must act cautiously, because His truth continues to spread among people.

🔍 Reflection: Do I trust that God is working even in situations that seem restrictive or challenging?

- **Verses 27–32:** The apostles are questioned by the high priest, who reminds them that they were strictly ordered not to teach in the name of Jesus. Peter and the apostles respond with bold clarity, declaring that they must obey God rather than human beings.
- They testify about Jesus' death, resurrection, exaltation, and the gift of the Holy Spirit given to those who obey Him.

💡 Lesson: True discipleship requires obedience to God above all human authority or pressure. The Holy Spirit strengthens believers to stand firm in truth.

🔍 Reflection: In moments of pressure or opposition, do I prioritise obedience to God or the approval of people?

- **Verses 33–39:** The council becomes furious and wants to put the apostles to death. However, Gamaliel, a respected teacher of the law, advises caution, reminding them that if the movement is from God, it cannot be overthrown, but if it is human, it will fail. His wisdom

restrains the council from extreme action.

💡 Lesson: God sovereignly protects His work and uses even unexpected voices to preserve His purposes.

🔍 Reflection: Do I believe that God is in control even when circumstances seem hostile or uncertain?

- **Verses 40–42:** The apostles are flogged and commanded again not to speak in the name of Jesus, yet they leave rejoicing because they were counted worthy to suffer for His name.
- Instead of becoming discouraged, they continue teaching and proclaiming the good news of Jesus daily in the temple and from house to house.

💡 Lesson: A heart truly devoted to Christ finds joy in faithfulness, even in suffering, and remains steadfast in sharing the gospel.

🔍 Reflection: How do I respond when my faith brings discomfort, rejection, or difficulty? Do I shrink back or remain faithful with joy?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"We must obey God rather than human beings!" – *Acts 5:29*

This verse reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God, and that true faith is demonstrated through courageous obedience and steadfast commitment to His will.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of faithful obedience shown by the apostles. Forgive me for the times fear, doubt, and the opinions of others have weakened my witness. Lord Jesus, help me to trust in Your sovereignty and live boldly for Your name with humility and devotion. Holy Spirit, fill me with strength, wisdom, and courage to remain steadfast, joyful in trials, and faithful in proclaiming the message of life. Let my life be a testimony to the risen Christ as I serve You with perseverance and unwavering commitment. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 5:17–42

Theme: Obedience to God and Rejoicing in Suffering for Christ

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on the courage of the apostles who continued preaching even after imprisonment, threats, and suffering. Picture them standing before the council with unwavering faith and leaving with joy despite persecution. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your heart so that you may learn to obey God faithfully and rejoice even in trials for the sake of Christ.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 5:17–42**. Observe the jealousy of the religious leaders, the miraculous deliverance from prison, the bold testimony of the apostles, and their joyful endurance of suffering. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what true obedience, courage, and perseverance in faith look like in your daily life.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 5:19–20** "But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. 'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people all about this new life.'" This verse reveals God's divine intervention and His desire for the message of life to continue. It reminds us that God's mission cannot be stopped by human barriers or opposition.
- **Acts 5:29** "We must obey God rather than human beings!" Peter's response shows unwavering loyalty to God above all authority. This verse teaches that true discipleship requires obedience even when it is costly or unpopular.
- **Acts 5:32** "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." This highlights the partnership between the believer's testimony and the work of the Holy Spirit. Obedience to God opens the way for the Spirit's power to work through our lives.
- **Acts 5:39** "If it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." Gamaliel's

counsel affirms that God's purposes are unstoppable. When God is at work, no opposition can ultimately hinder His plans.

- **Acts 5:41–42** "The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah." These verses reveal the heart of true devotion. Even after suffering, the apostles continued their mission with joy, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to Christ.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **Obedience to God must come before human approval.** The apostles chose faithfulness over fear, teaching us that our loyalty to God should remain firm even when facing pressure, criticism, or opposition.
2. **God strengthens us in times of opposition.** Just as the Lord delivered and guided the apostles, He equips His people with courage, wisdom, and endurance when they stand for His truth.
3. **The Holy Spirit empowers our witness.** Our calling is not fulfilled by human strength but through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we obey God.
4. **Suffering for Christ can produce spiritual joy.** The apostles rejoiced not because of pain, but because they were counted worthy to honour the name of Jesus, showing that trials can deepen faith and devotion.
5. **God's work cannot be stopped.** No resistance, authority, or challenge can hinder the plans of God, and this assurance gives believers confidence to remain steadfast in their calling.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 5:17 to 42 reveals the unstoppable mission of God and the unwavering obedience of the apostles in the face of persecution. Despite jealousy, imprisonment, threats, and physical suffering, they continued to proclaim the message of life with courage and joy. Their response demonstrates that true faith is marked by obedience to God

above human authority and perseverance in the mission of Christ.

- This passage teaches that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to remain bold, faithful, and joyful even in trials. It also reminds us that God's purposes cannot be hindered by opposition, and that a life devoted to Christ will continue to bear witness regardless of circumstances.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I choose obedience to God even when it is difficult or uncomfortable?
- How do I respond when my faith is challenged, opposed, or misunderstood?
- Am I relying on the Holy Spirit for strength and boldness in my daily witness?
- Can I rejoice in trials, trusting that God is working through every situation?

📖 Memory Verse

"We must obey God rather than human beings!" – *Acts 5:29*

This verse reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God, and that true faith is demonstrated through courageous obedience and steadfast commitment to His will.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that Your work cannot be stopped and that my first calling is to obey You above all else. Forgive me for the times I have allowed fear, pressure, or human approval to weaken my faith and silence my witness. Lord Jesus, help me to stand firm in truth and remain faithful even in challenges, trusting that suffering for Your name is never in vain. Holy Spirit, fill me with courage, perseverance, and joy so that I may boldly live and speak for Christ each day. Strengthen my heart to obey, endure, and rejoice in every circumstance, and let my life be a faithful testimony of Your grace and power. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 6:1–15

Theme: Servant Leadership, Wisdom, and Faithfulness Under Opposition

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord with a humble and teachable spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to understand His design for service, unity, and faithfulness within the body of Christ. In today's passage, we see the early church facing internal challenges and external opposition. Yet through wisdom, prayer, and the guidance of the Spirit, God strengthens His people and raises up faithful servants. Invite the Lord to shape your heart to serve with integrity and courage.

Introduction & Background

As the early church continues to grow rapidly, new challenges arise from within the community. A complaint emerges between the Hellenistic and Hebraic Jews regarding the daily distribution of food to widows. This situation has the potential to cause division within the church. The apostles recognise the importance of addressing the need while also remaining devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word.

In response, they appoint seven men known for their good reputation, wisdom, and fullness of the Spirit to oversee the practical service. Among them is Stephen, a man described as full of faith and the Holy Spirit. As Stephen ministers with power and grace, opposition arises once again, leading to false accusations against him. This passage reveals the importance of unity, servant leadership, spiritual character, and steadfast faith even when facing injustice.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 6:1–15**. Picture the growing church, the concern of the neglected widows, the apostles gathering the believers, and the selection of the seven servants. Observe Stephen's faith, wisdom, and boldness as he ministers among the people. Then notice the rising opposition and the calm strength reflected in his countenance. As you read, reflect on how God works through both service and suffering to accomplish His purposes.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–4:** A complaint arises that certain widows are being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. The apostles wisely address the issue by gathering the disciples and explaining that they must remain devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word. They instruct the believers to choose qualified men to oversee the practical needs.

💡 Lesson: God values both spiritual devotion and practical service. Wise leadership seeks unity and ensures that ministry responsibilities are handled faithfully.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to serve where there is need while honouring God's calling and order within the church?

- **Verses 5–7:** The whole group agrees and selects seven men who are full of the Spirit and wisdom. The apostles pray and lay hands on them, commissioning them for service. As a result, the Word of God spreads and the number of disciples increases greatly.

💡 Lesson: When the church walks in unity and appoints spiritually mature servants, growth and blessing follow. God honours orderly and Spirit-led leadership.

🔍 Reflection: Do I cultivate a reputation of faithfulness, wisdom, and spiritual maturity in my daily life?

- **Verses 8–10:** Stephen, full of grace and power, performs great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arises from members of the Synagogue who begin to argue with him, but they cannot stand against the wisdom and Spirit by whom he speaks.

💡 Lesson:A life filled with the Holy Spirit carries divine wisdom and authority that human opposition cannot overcome.

🔍 Reflection: Am I depending on the Holy Spirit for wisdom and courage when my faith is challenged?

- **Verses 11–15:** Unable to defeat Stephen through debate, his opponents secretly persuade others to make false accusations against him. He is brought before the council and accused of speaking against Moses and the temple.
- Yet those who look at him see that his face is like the face of an angel, reflecting peace and confidence in God.

💡 Lesson: Faithfulness to Christ may invite misunderstanding or false accusation, but God grants His servants peace and dignity in the midst of trial.
🔍 Reflection: How do I respond when I am misunderstood or unfairly treated because of my faith?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "They could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke." – *Acts 6:10*

This verse reminds us that true wisdom and strength come from the Holy Spirit. When we rely on Him, He equips us to stand firm in truth and grace.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me the value of unity, servant leadership, and faithfulness through this passage. Help me to serve with humility and wisdom wherever You place me. Guard my heart from division, pride, or selfish ambition, and teach me to seek the good of Your people.

Lord Jesus, strengthen me to remain faithful even when I face misunderstanding or opposition. May my life reflect grace, integrity, and unwavering trust in You.

Holy Spirit, fill me with wisdom, courage, and peace. Shape my character so that I may be known as someone full of faith and devoted to Your work. Help me to serve faithfully, speak truth boldly, and trust You completely in every circumstance. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 6:1–15

Theme: Servant Leadership, Wisdom, and Faithfulness Under Opposition

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on the growing early church, the need for unity in service, and the faithful character of Stephen as he stood firm despite opposition. Picture a community learning to serve with wisdom and humility while remaining devoted to God's mission. Ask the Holy Spirit to shape your heart to serve faithfully, walk in integrity, and remain steadfast even when misunderstood or opposed.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 6:1–15** again. Observe the concern about the neglected widows, the apostles' wise response, the appointment of Spirit-filled servants, and Stephen's powerful witness. Notice how unity, service, and spiritual maturity lead to the continued growth of the church. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the importance of humility, wisdom, and faithfulness in both service and trials.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 6:3** "Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom." This verse highlights the spiritual qualifications required for service in God's work. True leadership and service flow from a life guided by the Holy Spirit and grounded in wisdom and integrity.
- **Acts 6:4** "And will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." The apostles emphasise the priority of prayer and the Word of God. This reminds us that spiritual growth and effective ministry are sustained through deep dependence on God.
- **Acts 6:7** "So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly." When the church walks in unity and order, God blesses it with growth and spiritual fruit. Faithful service and wise leadership create an environment where the gospel flourishes.
- **Acts 6:10** "But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke." Stephen's wisdom came from the Holy Spirit, not human ability. This verse teaches that God equips His

servants with divine wisdom when they remain faithful to Him.

- **Acts 6:15** "His face was like the face of an angel." Even in the face of false accusations and hostility, Stephen reflects peace and God's presence. This shows that a life surrendered to God radiates calm confidence and spiritual strength.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God values faithful service in both small and great responsibilities.** Serving others with humility and sincerity is an essential part of spiritual maturity and strengthens the unity of the church.
2. **Spiritual character is more important than outward ability.** Being full of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, and integrity prepares us to serve God effectively in any role He assigns.
3. **Prayer and the Word must remain the foundation of ministry.** When believers prioritise God's presence and truth, their service becomes fruitful and spiritually impactful.
4. **Faithfulness may invite opposition or misunderstanding.** Like Stephen, a life devoted to truth and righteousness may be challenged, yet God grants peace and strength in every trial.
5. **The Holy Spirit gives wisdom and courage in difficult moments.** When we depend on Him, He enables us to stand firm, speak truth with grace, and remain calm under pressure.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 6:1 to 15 reveals how the early church handled internal challenges with wisdom, unity, and Spirit-led leadership. The appointment of the seven servants ensured that practical needs were met while the apostles remained devoted to prayer and the ministry of the Word. As a result, the church continued to grow and the message of God spread powerfully.
- The passage also introduces Stephen as a faithful servant full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit. Even when faced with opposition and false accusations, he remained steadfast and reflected God's peace. This teaches that true service is rooted in spiritual character,

and that faithfulness to God brings both growth in ministry and strength in times of opposition.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I serving God and others with humility, sincerity, and a willing heart?
- Do I prioritise prayer and God's Word as the foundation of my daily life and service?
- Is my character marked by wisdom, integrity, and dependence on the Holy Spirit?
- How do I respond when I face misunderstanding or opposition for doing what is right?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke." – *Acts 6:10*

This verse reminds us that the Holy Spirit equips believers with wisdom, courage, and spiritual strength to remain faithful in both service and trials.

🙏 **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me the importance of servant leadership, unity, and spiritual character. Forgive me for the times I have served with distraction, pride, or hesitation instead of humility and sincerity.

Lord Jesus, help me to remain faithful in both service and trials, reflecting Your grace and truth in all I do. Holy Spirit, fill me with wisdom, integrity, and courage so that I may serve wholeheartedly, stand firm under opposition, and live a life that brings glory to You. Strengthen my heart to prioritise prayer, depend on Your guidance, and remain steadfast in every circumstance. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 7:1–34

Theme: God's Faithfulness Through History and a Heart That Responds

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord with reverence and openness. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you reflect on Stephen's powerful testimony before the council. In this passage, Stephen recounts Israel's history to reveal God's continual faithfulness and humanity's repeated resistance. Invite God to search your heart and help you respond to His truth with humility and obedience.

Introduction & Background

Stephen has been falsely accused and brought before the high priest and the council. Rather than defending himself with anger or fear, he begins recounting the history of Israel, starting with Abraham and moving through Joseph and Moses. His speech is not merely a history lesson but a spiritual reminder that God has always been at work guiding, calling, and delivering His people.

Through these events, Stephen highlights two truths: God's presence is not limited to one place, and God's chosen servants are often misunderstood or rejected. This part of his message reveals the faithfulness of God across generations and challenges the listeners to recognise His ongoing work.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 7:1–34**. Picture Stephen standing confidently before the council, speaking with clarity and boldness. As he recounts God's covenant with Abraham, Joseph's rejection and rise to leadership, and Moses' calling through the burning bush, reflect on the thread of God's sovereign hand guiding every event. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how God has been faithful throughout history and in your own life.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–8:** Stephen begins with Abraham, reminding the council that God appeared to him in Mesopotamia and called him to leave his homeland. God established a covenant with Abraham and promised him descendants and a future inheritance.

💡 Lesson: God's purposes begin with His calling and promises. He remains faithful to fulfil His covenant even when circumstances seem uncertain.
🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God's promises even when I cannot yet see their fulfilment?

- **Verses 9–16:** Stephen recounts how Joseph was rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers, yet God was with him and raised him to a position of leadership in Egypt. Through Joseph, God preserved His people during famine.

💡 Lesson: Even when God's servants are rejected, His presence remains with them, and He works through hardship to accomplish His greater plan.
🔍 Reflection: When I face rejection or difficulty, do I believe that God is still working for His purposes in my life?

- **Verses 17–29:** Stephen shifts to the story of Moses, explaining how he was born during a time of oppression, raised in Pharaoh's household, and later rejected by his fellow Israelites when he tried to help them. Moses fled to Midian after this rejection.

💡 Lesson: God prepares His servants in hidden seasons, and rejection does not cancel His calling. His timing and methods are often different from human expectations.
🔍 Reflection: Am I patient with God's preparation process, even when I feel overlooked or misunderstood?

- **Verses 30–34:** Stephen describes Moses encountering God in the burning bush. The Lord declares that He has seen the suffering of His people and has come to deliver them. God commissions Moses to return to Egypt as a deliverer.

💡 Lesson: God sees the suffering of His people and acts in compassion and power. He calls ordinary individuals to participate in His redemptive plan.
🔍 Reflection: Do I recognise that God sees my struggles and calls me to trust Him as my deliverer?

📖 Memory Verse

> "I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free." – *Acts 7:34*

This verse reminds us that God is attentive, compassionate, and faithful. He sees, hears, and responds to the needs of His people.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the faithfulness of those who trusted You even through trials, and I ask that You shape my heart to follow their example. Forgive me for my fears, doubts, and moments of hesitation that weaken my witness and commitment to You. Cleanse me from every form of unholiness, lukewarmness, and lack of trust, and renew my faith so that I may stand firm in Your truth. Help me to trust in Your sovereignty, even when I face resistance, uncertainty, or difficulty.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my life to You again today. Teach me to obey You above all else and to live with humility, courage, and devotion to Your will. Let my words, thoughts, and actions reflect Your love and truth. Remove every fear of people, every distraction, and every doubt that keeps me from fully walking in Your purpose, and strengthen me to remain steadfast, joyful in trials, and faithful in every season.

Holy Spirit, dwell richly within me and guide me daily. Fill me with Your wisdom, boldness, and strength, and help me to produce the fruit of the Spirit in my life—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Lead me in obedience, shape my character, and empower me to live as a faithful witness of the risen Christ. May my life be a testimony of Your grace, and may I serve You with perseverance, joy, and unwavering commitment today and always. **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 7:1–34

Theme: God's Faithfulness Through History and a Heart That Responds

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart in the presence of the Lord. Reflect on God's faithfulness throughout history and how He continually called His people despite their weaknesses and failures. Picture Stephen standing with courage and wisdom as he recounts God's work from Abraham to Moses. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a listening heart that recognises God's hand in every season of your life and responds with humility, faith, and obedience.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 7:1–34**. Observe how Stephen recalls God's covenant with Abraham, Joseph's trials and God's favour upon him, and Moses' calling to deliver Israel. Notice the consistent theme of God's presence, guidance, and faithfulness even when His people did not fully understand His ways. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God's plans unfold across generations and how He remains sovereign in every circumstance.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 7:2** "The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia." This verse reminds us that God takes the initiative to call His people and guide their journey according to His divine purpose.
- **Acts 7:9** "But God was with him." Even when Joseph was rejected and suffered injustice, God's presence never left him. This teaches that God's faithfulness remains constant in times of hardship and rejection.
- **Acts 7:25** "Moses thought that his own people would realise that God was using him to rescue them." This verse shows that God's plans may not always be immediately understood by others, yet His calling and purpose remain sure.
- **Acts 7:30** "An angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert." God reveals Himself in His perfect timing and often calls His servants in unexpected ways and places.

- **Acts 7:34** "I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt." This verse highlights God's compassion and awareness of His people's suffering, assuring us that He sees, hears, and responds to our struggles.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God's faithfulness is consistent across generations.** Even when circumstances change, His promises, presence, and purposes remain unshaken.
2. **God is present in seasons of rejection, delay, and suffering.** Like Joseph and Moses, we may face misunderstanding, yet God is still working through every situation.
3. **God's timing is perfect, even when it differs from our expectations.** He prepares and calls His people according to His divine plan.
4. **A listening and humble heart is essential to recognise God's guidance.** Spiritual sensitivity helps us respond rightly to His call.
5. **God sees the struggles of His people and responds with compassion and deliverance.** Our trials are never hidden from His sight.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 7:1–34** reveals Stephen recounting Israel's history to show God's continuous faithfulness and sovereign guidance. From Abraham's calling to Joseph's preservation and Moses' commissioning, God remained present and active despite human weakness, rejection, and misunderstanding. His purposes were never hindered by circumstances or opposition.
- This passage teaches that God's redemptive plan unfolds across time and generations. It reminds us that He calls, prepares, and sustains His people according to His will. Even in seasons of waiting, suffering, or uncertainty, God is working faithfully and inviting His people to trust, listen, and obey His voice.

4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I recognise God's faithfulness in the different seasons of my life?
- Am I patient with God's timing when His plans unfold differently from my expectations?
- Is my heart humble and attentive to God's calling and guidance?
- Do I trust that God is present and working even in times of struggle or delay?

📖 Memory Verse

"I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free." – *Acts 7:34*

This verse reminds us that God is attentive, compassionate, and faithful. He sees, hears, and responds to the needs of His people.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your unchanging faithfulness throughout generations and in every season of my life. Forgive me for the times I have doubted Your timing, resisted Your guidance, or failed to recognise Your work in my journey.

Lord Jesus, help me to trust in Your sovereign plan and to walk in obedience even when I do not fully understand Your ways. Holy Spirit, give me a humble and listening heart that discerns Your voice, remembers Your faithfulness, and responds with faith and surrender. Strengthen me to trust that You are always present, always working, and always leading me according to Your perfect will.

Gracious God, teach me to remember how You have led Your people throughout history and to trust that You are leading me today with the same wisdom and love. When I face uncertainty, delay, or challenges, remind my heart that You see every struggle and are working for my good according to Your purpose. Help me to surrender my plans, remain patient in Your timing, and walk faithfully in the path You set before me. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 4 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: Faithfulness Under Opposition and God's Sovereign Work Through History

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Throughout this week we have reflected on the faithfulness of the apostles, the wisdom of Spirit-led service, and Stephen's powerful testimony before the council. In Acts chapter 5 verses 17 to 42, we saw the apostles imprisoned for proclaiming the name of Jesus, yet God delivered them and commanded them to continue speaking the words of life. Despite threats, flogging, and opposition, they rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ and never ceased teaching and proclaiming the gospel. Their courage reminds us that obedience to God must always take precedence over fear of human authority.

In Acts chapter 6, the early church faced internal challenges that could have led to division, yet the apostles responded with wisdom, prayer, and Spirit-led leadership. The appointment of the seven servants demonstrated that God values both spiritual devotion and practical care within His church. Stephen emerged as a faithful servant full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit, showing that true ministry flows from spiritual character and dependence on God. Even as opposition arose, God's Word continued to spread and the church grew in unity and strength.

In Acts chapter 7 verses 1 to 34, Stephen's speech reveals God's faithfulness throughout Israel's history, from Abraham's calling to Moses' early life. He reminds the council that God's presence and promises were never limited to one place, but were continually at work guiding His people according to His sovereign plan. This passage teaches us that God is always faithful, even when His people fail to recognise His work or resist His messengers. Stephen's calm and courageous testimony reflects a heart deeply rooted in God's truth and surrendered to His will.

As we rest today, we are reminded that God's work continues through every season of opposition, service, and testimony. He strengthens His people to remain bold in witness, wise in service, and steadfast in faith. The same God who guided Abraham, preserved Moses, empowered the

apostles, and sustained Stephen is faithfully at work in our lives today. Our rest is found in trusting His sovereign plan, remembering His faithfulness, and surrendering our lives to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your faithfulness displayed through the apostles, the early church, and Stephen's testimony. As I rest in Your presence today, help me to remember that You are sovereign over history, over the church, and over my life. Teach me to trust Your plans even when I face opposition, uncertainty, or delay.

Lord Jesus, forgive me for the times I have allowed fear, distraction, or doubt to weaken my obedience and witness. Strengthen my heart to stand firm in truth, to rejoice even in trials, and to remain faithful to Your calling. Help me to obey You above all else and to live each day as a bold and humble witness of Your grace.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh with wisdom, courage, and steadfast faith. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions so that my life reflects integrity, unity, and devotion to God. Remove every trace of pride, resistance, or spiritual complacency, and shape my heart to be sensitive to Your leading and responsive to Your voice.

As I enter a new week, help me to remember Your faithfulness throughout every generation and to walk in confidence that You are working in my life. Let my life be marked by obedience, service, boldness, and reverence for Your holiness. May I rest in Your presence, trust in Your promises, and commit my life anew to Your will and purpose. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 7:35–60

Theme: Faithfulness Unto Death and the Power of a Spirit-filled Witness

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord in quiet surrender and reverence. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive His truth and to strengthen your spirit. In today's passage, we witness the bold testimony of Stephen as he declares God's truth with courage and unwavering faith, even in the face of rejection and death. Invite the Holy Spirit to teach you what it means to stand firm, forgive freely, and remain faithful to Christ regardless of the cost.

Introduction & Background

Stephen, a man full of faith, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit, stands before the council after being falsely accused. In his speech, he recounts God's faithfulness throughout Israel's history and confronts the spiritual resistance of the people. As he speaks truth with boldness, the hearts of his listeners grow hardened rather than softened.

This passage marks a significant moment in the early church as Stephen becomes the first martyr. His life and death reflect a powerful witness of Christ like character marked by courage, grace, and forgiveness. Even in the face of violence, Stephen's focus remains on Jesus, revealing that a Spirit-filled life is not defined by circumstances but by unwavering devotion to God.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 7:35–60**. Picture Stephen standing before the council, boldly declaring God's truth. Observe the rising anger of the crowd and the contrast of peace and glory reflected in Stephen's face. Imagine the moment he sees heaven opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. As you read, reflect on what it means to remain faithful to Christ even in the most difficult circumstances.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 35–41:** Stephen recalls how Moses, though initially rejected by his people, was chosen by God to deliver them. Yet the people turned their hearts back to Egypt and fell into idolatry.

💡 Lesson: God's chosen servants are often rejected, yet His purposes still stand. A hardened heart resists God's work even when His truth is evident.
🔍 Reflection: Do I fully embrace God's direction in my life, or do I resist Him when it challenges my comfort or expectations?

- **Verses 42–50:** Stephen speaks of Israel's history of turning away from God and worshipping created things. He reminds them that God does not dwell in temples made by human hands but is sovereign over all creation.

💡 Lesson: True worship is not confined to outward forms but is rooted in a heart surrendered to God. He desires relationship, not ritual alone.
🔍 Reflection: Is my worship genuine and heartfelt, or am I relying on outward practices without inward surrender?

- **Verses 51–53:** Stephen boldly confronts the council, calling out their resistance to the Holy Spirit and their rejection of God's messengers, including Jesus.

💡 Lesson: Spiritual resistance prevents us from receiving God's truth. A humble and responsive heart is essential to walk in His will.
🔍 Reflection: Am I sensitive to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, or do I resist His correction and guidance?

- **Verses 54–56:** The council reacts with fury, but Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looks up and sees the glory of God and Jesus standing at His right hand.

💡 Lesson: In moments of greatest trial, God reveals His presence and glory to those who remain faithful. Our focus on Christ gives us strength beyond circumstances.
🔍 Reflection: Where do I fix my eyes in times of difficulty, on my problems or on the presence of God?

- **Verses 57–60:** Stephen is dragged out and stoned, yet he prays for his spirit to be received by Jesus and asks God to forgive those who are killing him. His final moments reflect peace, forgiveness, and complete trust in God.

💡 Lesson: A life transformed by Christ reflects His love even in suffering. True faith produces forgiveness, grace, and unwavering trust in God until the very end.

🔍 Reflection: Do I have a heart that forgives and trusts God even when I am hurt, misunderstood, or treated unjustly?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them." – *Acts 7:60a*

This verse reveals the depth of Christ like love and forgiveness that the Holy Spirit produces in a surrendered heart, even in the face of suffering.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the powerful example of Stephen and his unwavering faith in the midst of suffering. Forgive me for the times I have resisted Your truth or allowed fear to weaken my commitment. Help me to stand firm in faith and to trust in Your purposes even when I face difficulty or opposition.

Lord Jesus, teach me to fix my eyes on You in every circumstance. Fill my heart with courage to speak truth, grace to forgive others, and strength to remain faithful no matter the cost. May my life reflect Your love, humility, and obedience in all things.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh with Your presence and power. Remove every hardness from my heart and make me sensitive to Your voice. Strengthen me to live as a faithful witness, rooted in truth and overflowing with grace. Help me to trust You completely and to reflect Christ in both my words and my actions. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 7:35–60

Theme: Faithfulness Unto Death and the Power of a Spirit-filled Witness

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on the life of Stephen, a servant full of faith and the Holy Spirit, who stood firm in truth despite intense opposition. Picture him before the council, speaking with boldness and grace, and later lifting his eyes to heaven even as he faced death. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your heart so that you may remain faithful, courageous, and full of grace in every circumstance.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 7:35–60**. Observe how Stephen recounts God's faithfulness through history and confronts the spiritual resistance of the people. Notice the growing anger of the council and the deep peace that remains within Stephen. Reflect on his vision of Jesus and his response of forgiveness even in suffering. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal what it means to live and finish faithfully for Christ.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 7:35** "This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself." This verse highlights how God often chooses those who are rejected to fulfil His purposes. It reminds us that human rejection does not limit God's calling or plan.
- **Acts 7:39** "But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt." This reveals the danger of inward resistance to God. Even when God leads us forward, the heart can cling to the past if it is not fully surrendered.
- **Acts 7:48** "However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands." This emphasises that God is not confined to structures or rituals. He desires a relationship with hearts that are fully devoted to Him.
- **Acts 7:55** "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." This verse shows the reward of a Spirit-filled life. In moments of trial, God reveals His presence and glory to those who remain faithful.

- **Acts 7:60** "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." Stephen's final words reflect Christ like forgiveness. This demonstrates the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to produce love and grace even in suffering.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God's purposes prevail even when His servants are rejected.** Like Moses and Stephen, faithfulness to God may not always be received by people, but His plans will always stand.
2. **A surrendered heart is essential to follow God fully.** Resistance within the heart can hinder spiritual growth, but humility and obedience allow God to lead us forward.
3. **True worship comes from relationship, not outward form.** God seeks hearts that are devoted, responsive, and aligned with His will rather than external expressions alone.
4. **The Holy Spirit sustains us in trials.** In moments of difficulty, He gives peace, strength, and a vision beyond present suffering, helping us remain steadfast.
5. **A Christ-like life reflects forgiveness and grace.** Even in pain or injustice, the Spirit enables believers to respond with love, revealing the character of Jesus to the world.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 7:35 to 60 presents a powerful picture of God's faithfulness and human resistance throughout history, culminating in Stephen's bold witness and martyrdom. Despite rejection and hostility, Stephen remains full of the Holy Spirit, declaring truth with courage and finishing his life with peace and forgiveness.
- This passage teaches that a Spirit-filled life is marked by unwavering faith, a surrendered heart, and the ability to reflect Christ even in suffering. It reminds us that God's presence is with His people in every circumstance and that true victory is found in faithful obedience, not in earthly outcomes.

4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I remain faithful to God even when I face rejection or misunderstanding?
- Is there any area in my heart where I am resisting the Holy Spirit's leading?
- Do I seek a genuine relationship with God beyond outward practices?
- Can I respond with forgiveness and grace when I experience hurt or injustice?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Lord, do not hold this sin against them." – *Acts 7:60a*

This verse reveals the depth of Christ like love and forgiveness that the Holy Spirit produces in a surrendered heart, even in the face of suffering.

🙏 **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Stephen, who remained faithful and full of grace even in the face of suffering. Forgive me for the times I have resisted Your leading or allowed fear and pride to shape my response. Help me to live with a surrendered heart that trusts in Your purposes.

Lord Jesus, teach me to fix my eyes on You and to remain steadfast in truth regardless of circumstances. Give me courage to stand firm in my faith and a heart that reflects Your love and forgiveness to others.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and power. Remove every hardness within me and make me sensitive to Your voice. Strengthen me to walk in obedience, endure trials with faith, and reflect Christ in my words and actions each day. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 8:1–25

Theme: Faithfulness in Persecution and the Power of the Gospel

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord with a humble and open heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your thoughts and help you receive His Word with clarity and understanding. In today's passage, we see the church facing intense persecution, yet the gospel continues to spread with power and purpose. Invite the Lord to teach you how to remain faithful in difficult seasons and to trust that He is always at work, even in challenges.

Introduction & Background

Following the death of Stephen, a great persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem. Believers are scattered throughout Judea and Samaria, marking a significant turning point in the spread of the gospel. What seemed like a moment of destruction becomes a means for God's mission to expand beyond its original boundaries.

Among those scattered is Philip, who goes to Samaria and boldly proclaims Christ. Through his ministry, many experience deliverance, healing, and great joy. At the same time, the passage introduces Simon, a man who is drawn to the power of God but struggles with understanding true faith and humility. This passage reveals that God can use even difficult circumstances to advance His kingdom and that genuine faith must come from a sincere and surrendered heart.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 8:1–25**. Picture the believers being scattered from their homes, carrying the message of Jesus wherever they go. Observe Philip preaching in Samaria and the people responding with joy. Notice the contrast between genuine faith and misguided motives through the account of Simon. As you read, reflect on how God works through both hardship and opportunity to accomplish His purposes.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–4:** After Stephen's death, persecution intensifies and believers are scattered across regions. Despite the hardship, those who are scattered continue to preach the Word wherever they go.

💡 Lesson: God can use even seasons of suffering and disruption to fulfil His greater purpose. What seems like loss can become an opportunity for the gospel to spread.

🔍 Reflection: When I face difficulties, do I trust that God can still work through my situation for His purpose?

- **Verses 5–8:** Philip goes to Samaria and proclaims Christ. Many respond to the message as they witness signs, deliverance, and healing, resulting in great joy in the city.

💡 Lesson: The gospel brings transformation, freedom, and joy wherever it is received. God's power works through those who faithfully proclaim His truth.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to share the message of Christ wherever God places me?

- **Verses 9–13:** Simon, who had previously amazed people with his sorcery, believes and is baptised after seeing the works of God through Philip. However, his understanding of faith is still incomplete.

💡 Lesson: Faith must go beyond outward response and be rooted in a transformed heart. True belief involves surrender, not just amazement at God's power.

🔍 Reflection: Is my faith based on a genuine relationship with God or simply on what I receive from Him?

- **Verses 14–17:** The apostles in Jerusalem hear about the believers in Samaria and send Peter and John. They pray for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit comes upon them.

💡 Lesson: God's work is unified and guided by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual growth requires both faith and the continued work of the Spirit in our lives.

🔍 Reflection: Am I seeking the fullness of the Holy Spirit in my daily walk with God?

- **Verses 18–25:** Simon offers money to receive the power of imparting the Holy Spirit, revealing his misunderstanding. Peter rebukes him, calling him to repentance and a right heart before God.

💡 Lesson: The gifts of God cannot be bought or controlled. God desires a pure heart and sincere repentance rather than selfish ambition.
🔍 Reflection: Are my desires in serving God pure, or am I seeking recognition, power, or personal gain?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." – *Acts 8:4*

This verse reminds us that God's mission continues in every circumstance and that every believer is called to be a witness wherever they are.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for reminding me that Your purposes are greater than any difficulty I face. Help me to trust You in every season and to remain faithful even when circumstances are challenging. Teach me to see every situation as an opportunity to share Your truth and reflect Your love.

Lord Jesus, purify my heart and strengthen my faith so that I may follow You with sincerity and devotion. Guard me from selfish motives and help me to seek You above all else. May my life be a testimony of Your transforming power and grace.

Holy Spirit, fill me with boldness, wisdom, and discernment. Guide me to walk in obedience, to rely on Your strength, and to share the gospel faithfully wherever I go. Shape my heart to desire what is true and pleasing to You. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 8:1–25

Theme: Faithfulness in Persecution and the Power of the Gospel

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on the scattering of the early believers after persecution arose and how, even in hardship, the message of Jesus continued to spread. Picture believers leaving their homes yet carrying the gospel in their hearts, turning trials into opportunities for God's work. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith so that you may remain steadfast and fruitful even in difficult seasons.

📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 8:1–25** again. Observe how persecution led to the spread of the gospel beyond Jerusalem, how Philip faithfully proclaimed Christ in Samaria, and how God confirmed His Word through signs and transformed lives. Notice also the account of Simon and the warning against a divided heart. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the power of the gospel and the importance of sincerity in your walk with God.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 8:4** "Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." This verse shows that persecution did not silence the believers but propelled them into greater mission. The gospel spread because ordinary believers remained faithful in every place they went.
- **Acts 8:6** "When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said." This highlights how God confirms His Word with power. The message of Christ is not empty but is accompanied by transformation that draws people to listen and believe.
- **Acts 8:8** "So there was great joy in that city." The result of the gospel reaching Samaria was not only healing and deliverance but deep and lasting joy. This reminds us that true joy flows from experiencing the power and grace of God.
- **Acts 8:17** "Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." This verse reveals the unity of the early

church and the importance of the Holy Spirit in the life of every believer. God's work is both powerful and orderly, bringing people into fullness through His Spirit.

- **Acts 8:21** "You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God." Peter's words to Simon reveal that God is concerned not only with actions but with the condition of the heart. True faith must be genuine and surrendered, not motivated by selfish desires.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God can use difficult circumstances to accomplish His purposes.** What seemed like defeat for the early church became a means for the gospel to spread further. Trials in our lives can become opportunities for God's work.
2. **The gospel brings transformation and joy.** Wherever Christ is truly received, lives are changed, burdens are lifted, and deep spiritual joy follows.
3. **The Holy Spirit is essential for a complete Christian life.** Belief in Christ is accompanied by the work of the Holy Spirit who empowers, guides, and strengthens believers.
4. **Faith must be sincere and not self seeking.** The account of Simon reminds us that following God is not about personal gain or recognition but about a transformed heart.
5. **God works through ordinary people who are willing to be faithful.** The scattered believers and Philip demonstrate that anyone who is obedient can be used by God to share His truth.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 8:1–25** reveals how God turned persecution into a powerful movement of the gospel beyond Jerusalem. As believers were scattered, they carried the message of Christ wherever they went, showing that God's mission cannot be limited by circumstances.
- Philip's ministry in Samaria demonstrates the power of faithful obedience, as lives were transformed, many believed, and great joy filled the city.

- At the same time, the passage provides a warning through the example of Simon, reminding us that God desires sincerity and purity of heart. True faith is not about outward association with spiritual things but about inward transformation.
- This passage teaches that the gospel is powerful, unstoppable, and life giving. It calls believers to remain faithful in all circumstances, depend on the Holy Spirit, and walk in genuine devotion to God.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I remain faithful to God even when I face challenges or unexpected changes in life?
- Am I sharing the message of Christ wherever God has placed me?
- Do I seek the work of the Holy Spirit in my life daily?
- Is my faith genuine and focused on God, or am I seeking personal gain or recognition?

📖 Memory Verse

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." – *Acts 8:4*

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You that Your plans cannot be hindered and that You are able to use every situation for Your glory. Help me to remain faithful even in difficulties and to trust that You are working through every season of my life.

Lord Jesus, let my life be a witness to Your transforming power. Teach me to share Your truth with boldness and love wherever You place me. Guard my heart from selfish motives and help me to follow You with sincerity and devotion.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and guide me in truth. Strengthen me to remain steadfast, to walk in obedience, and to reflect the joy of the gospel in my life. Shape my heart so that I may live in a way that honours God and draws others to You. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 8:26–40

Theme: God's Guidance, Obedient Hearts, and the Power of the Gospel

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart to Receive*** Come before the Lord with a quiet and attentive spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to understand how God leads His people in very personal and specific ways. In today's passage, we see a divine appointment where one man's obedience becomes the means of another's salvation. Invite the Lord to make you sensitive to His voice and willing to follow wherever He leads.

Introduction & Background

After the gospel spreads powerfully in Samaria, God begins to lead His servants beyond crowds and cities to reach individuals. Philip, who had been ministering to many, is now directed by an angel of the Lord to go to a desert road. This may seem like an unusual assignment, yet it reveals that God values every soul and orchestrates events with perfect purpose.

On this road, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is searching for truth while reading the Scriptures. Though he has knowledge, he lacks understanding. God brings Philip at the right moment to explain the message of Jesus. This passage highlights God's guidance, the importance of obedience, and the transforming power of the gospel when it is received with an open heart.

📖 ***Read the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 8:26–40**. Picture Philip leaving a fruitful ministry to walk a quiet desert road in obedience. Imagine the Ethiopian official reading from the scroll of Isaiah, searching for meaning. Observe the Spirit's prompting, the conversation that follows, and the moment of faith expressed through baptism. As you read, reflect on how God leads, speaks, and works through willing hearts.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 26–29:** An angel of the Lord directs Philip to go south to a desert road. As he travels, the Spirit prompts him to approach a chariot where an Ethiopian official is reading Scripture.

💡 Lesson: God guides His people with purpose and precision. Obedience to His direction, even when it seems unclear, leads to divine opportunities.
🔍 Reflection: Am I attentive and willing to follow God's guidance, even when it takes me out of my comfort zone?

- **Verses 30–35:** Philip hears the man reading and asks if he understands what he is reading. The official admits his need for guidance and invites Philip to explain. Beginning with the passage from Isaiah, Philip shares the good news about Jesus.

💡 Lesson: God uses willing believers to bring understanding to those who are searching. The gospel becomes clear when it is explained with wisdom and led by the Spirit.
🔍 Reflection: Am I prepared and willing to share the message of Jesus with those who are seeking truth?

- **Verses 36–38:** As they travel, the Ethiopian sees water and expresses his desire to be baptised. Philip baptises him immediately as a response to his faith in Christ.

💡 Lesson: Genuine faith responds with obedience. Salvation is not only received inwardly but expressed outwardly through commitment to Christ.
🔍 Reflection: Is my faith active and responsive, leading me to obey God without delay?

- **Verses 39–40:** After the baptism, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly takes Philip away, while the Ethiopian continues his journey rejoicing. Philip continues preaching in other places as he follows God's leading.

💡 Lesson: The joy of salvation remains even when circumstances change. God continues His work through those who are willing to be led by Him.
🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God to continue His work in others even when my role is complete?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus." – *Acts 8:35*

This verse reminds us that all Scripture points to Christ and that we are called to share the good news with clarity and faithfulness.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the way You guide and lead Your people with perfect wisdom and purpose. Teach me to listen to Your voice and to respond with immediate obedience, even when I do not fully understand Your plan. Help me to trust that every step You lead me to is part of Your greater work.

Lord Jesus, fill my heart with a desire to share the good news with others. Give me the courage to speak, the wisdom to explain Your truth, and the love to reach those who are searching for You. Let my life be an instrument through which others may come to know Your saving grace.

Holy Spirit, make me sensitive to Your prompting and faithful in every opportunity You place before me. Guide my thoughts, words, and actions so that I may walk in obedience and reflect Your truth. Fill me with joy as I follow You, and use my life to bring others into a living relationship with Christ.

Lord, help me to recognise the divine appointments You place in my path each day. Open my eyes to see the needs of others and give me a willing heart to step forward in faith. Remove hesitation, fear, and doubt, and replace them with confidence in Your leading and trust in Your power to work through me.

Strengthen my faith so that I may remain steadfast in every season, whether in moments of clarity or uncertainty. Let my life reflect humility, readiness, and wholehearted devotion to Your will. May I walk closely with You, rejoice in Your work, and faithfully fulfil the purpose You have for me. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 8:26–40

Theme: God's Guidance, Obedient Hearts, and the Power of the Gospel

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🙏 ***Still Your Heart Before God*** Take a quiet moment to still your heart before the Lord. Reflect on how God personally leads His people and meets those who are searching for truth. Picture Philip walking in obedience along the desert road and the Ethiopian official reading Scripture with a sincere desire to understand. Ask the Holy Spirit to make your heart sensitive to His voice and willing to respond without hesitation.
📖 ***Read with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 8:26–40** again. Observe how God orchestrates a divine encounter between Philip and the Ethiopian. Notice the Spirit's guidance, the openness of the seeker, and the transforming power of the gospel message. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God leads, teaches, and brings people into a relationship with Him through His Word.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 8:29** "The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.'" This verse highlights the personal guidance of the Holy Spirit. God leads His people in specific ways when they are attentive and willing to obey.
- **Acts 8:31** "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" The Ethiopian's response reveals the importance of spiritual guidance and teaching. God often uses others to bring clarity and understanding to His Word.
- **Acts 8:35** "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus." This verse shows that all Scripture points to Christ and that the message of salvation is centered in Him.
- **Acts 8:36** "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?" This reflects a heart that responds eagerly to the truth. Genuine faith leads to immediate obedience and commitment.
- **Acts 8:39** "The eunuch went on his way rejoicing." This verse reveals the joy that comes from receiving salvation and encountering God personally. True faith brings lasting transformation and joy.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God guides His people personally and purposefully.** When we are attentive to His voice, He leads us into opportunities to serve and share His truth.
2. **God prepares hearts to receive His Word.** Just as the Ethiopian was already seeking, God works in people's hearts before we even meet them.
3. **The gospel must be clearly shared and explained.** God uses willing believers to bring understanding and reveal Christ through Scripture.
4. **True faith responds with immediate obedience.** A sincere encounter with Jesus leads to action, commitment, and transformation.
5. **The joy of salvation is lasting and personal.** When we experience God's truth, it brings deep and abiding joy that continues beyond the moment.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 8:26–40** reveals a beautiful picture of God's personal guidance and the power of the gospel to transform a life. Philip's obedience to the Spirit-led him to a divine encounter where he was able to explain the message of Jesus to a seeking heart. This moment resulted in faith, baptism, and great joy.
- This passage teaches that God is actively working to draw people to Himself and invites His people to participate in His mission. It reminds us that every act of obedience can become part of God's greater plan. When we listen to His voice, trust His leading, and share His Word, lives are changed and hearts are filled with joy.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I attentive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my daily life?
- Do I take opportunities to share God's Word with those who are seeking truth?
- Is my faith expressed through obedience and commitment?
- Do I experience and reflect the joy that comes from knowing Christ?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus." – *Acts 8:35*

This verse reminds us that all Scripture points to Christ and that we are called to share the good news with clarity and faithfulness.

🙏 **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for guiding my life with wisdom and love. Teach me to be attentive to Your voice and willing to follow wherever You lead. Forgive me for the times I have ignored Your prompting or hesitated in obedience.

Lord Jesus, fill my heart with a desire to know You more and to share Your truth with others. Help me to live with sincerity and to respond to Your Word with immediate obedience. Let my life reflect the joy and transformation that comes from knowing You.

Holy Spirit, guide me daily and make me sensitive to Your leading. Give me wisdom to understand Your Word and courage to share it with others. Use my life to bring light, truth, and hope to those who are searching.

Gracious God, help me to trust that You are working in every situation and preparing hearts to receive Your truth. Strengthen my faith so that I may walk in obedience, serve with humility, and rejoice in the work You are doing through me. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

Week 5 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: Faithfulness in Witness and God's Sovereign Guidance in Every Season

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Throughout this week we have journeyed through Acts chapter 7 verses 35 to 60 and Acts chapter 8 verses 1 to 40, witnessing both the cost of faithful witness and the unstoppable movement of the gospel. In Acts chapter 7 verses 35 to 60, Stephen boldly declares the truth about God's faithfulness and the resistance of His people. Even in the face of anger and rejection, he remains filled with the Holy Spirit, fixing his eyes on heaven. As he is stoned, his response reflects Christlike grace, as he forgives those who oppose him and entrusts his spirit to the Lord. His life and death reveal that true faithfulness is not measured by comfort or safety, but by unwavering devotion to God.

In Acts chapter 8 verses 1 to 25, we see that persecution, rather than silencing the church, becomes the means by which the gospel spreads beyond Jerusalem. Believers are scattered, yet they carry the message of Christ wherever they go. Philip's ministry in Samaria demonstrates the power of the gospel to bring transformation, healing, and great joy. At the same time, the account of Simon reminds us that God desires sincerity of heart, not outward association with spiritual things. This passage teaches that God can use even difficult circumstances to fulfil His purposes and expand His kingdom.

In Acts chapter 8 verses 26 to 40, we witness a more personal expression of God's work through a divine encounter. Philip is led by the Spirit to meet the Ethiopian official who is searching for understanding. Through obedience and faithful explanation of Scripture, Philip shares the good news of Jesus, leading to faith and baptism. This moment reveals that God not only works through large movements but also through individual lives, guiding His people with precision and purpose to reach those who are seeking Him.

As we rest today, we are reminded that God is sovereign over every circumstance, whether in moments of persecution, service, or personal encounter. He strengthens His people to remain faithful in witness, to walk in obedience, and to trust His guidance. The same God who sustained Stephen, empowered the scattered believers, and led Philip is at work in our lives today. Our rest is found in trusting His plan, surrendering to His leading, and rejoicing in His faithful work through every season.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for the powerful witness of Stephen, the faithfulness of the early believers, and the guidance You provide through Your Spirit. As I rest in Your presence today, help me to trust that You are sovereign over every situation in my life. Teach me to remain faithful to You even when I face challenges, uncertainty, or opposition.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the example of steadfast obedience and grace shown in these passages. Forgive me for the times I have allowed fear, doubt, or comfort to hinder my faith. Strengthen my heart to stand firm in truth, to live with courage, and to reflect Your love even in difficult circumstances. Help me to be a faithful witness in both small and great opportunities.

Holy Spirit, guide me and fill me afresh with wisdom, boldness, and sensitivity to Your voice. Teach me to recognise Your leading and to respond with immediate obedience. Shape my heart to be sincere, humble, and fully devoted to God. Remove anything that hinders my walk with You and help me to live a life that honours Christ.

As I enter a new week, help me to walk in confidence that You are working in and through my life. Let my faith be steadfast, my obedience wholehearted, and my witness faithful. May I trust Your guidance, rejoice in Your work, and rest in Your unfailing presence each day. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 9:1–19

Theme: **Transformation Through Encounter and the Power of God's Grace**

🙏 ***Quiet Your Heart Before the Lord*** Come before God in stillness and surrender. Lay aside every distraction and allow your heart to become attentive to His voice. In today's passage, we witness a dramatic transformation as Saul, once a fierce persecutor of the church, encounters the risen Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to the power of divine grace that changes lives completely. Invite Him to reveal areas in your life where He desires to bring transformation, surrender, and renewal.

Introduction & Background

After the martyrdom of Stephen, persecution against the early church intensifies, and many believers are scattered. Saul emerges as a central figure in this opposition, zealously seeking to destroy the followers of Jesus. With authority from the high priest, he sets out for Damascus to arrest believers and bring them back to Jerusalem.

Yet in this moment of hostility, God intervenes in an extraordinary way. Saul's journey becomes not one of destruction but of transformation. The persecutor becomes a chosen instrument for God's mission. This passage marks a turning point in the book of Acts, demonstrating that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace and that His purposes can transform even the hardest of hearts.

📖 ***Engage with the Word Deeply*** Slowly read **Acts 9:1–19**. Picture Saul travelling with determination, filled with zeal against the followers of Jesus. Suddenly, imagine the blinding light from heaven and the voice of Jesus calling out to him. Observe Saul's helplessness as he is led into Damascus, and then see Ananias responding in obedience despite fear. As you read, reflect on the power of a personal encounter with Christ and how it brings about true transformation.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–2:** Saul is actively threatening and persecuting the disciples of the Lord. He seeks authority to arrest believers in Damascus,

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showing his deep opposition to the message of Jesus.

💡 Lesson: Zeal without truth can lead to opposition against God's purposes. Human passion must be aligned with divine truth.

🔍 Reflection: Are there areas in my life where I am driven by my own understanding rather than God's truth?

- **Verses 3–6:** As Saul approaches Damascus, a bright light from heaven surrounds him, and he hears the voice of Jesus asking why he is persecuting Him. Saul realises that in opposing believers, he has been opposing Christ Himself.

💡 Lesson: An encounter with Jesus brings conviction, revelation, and transformation. God meets us even when we are far from Him.

🔍 Reflection: Have I truly encountered Jesus in a way that transforms my thoughts, actions, and direction?

- **Verses 7–9:** Saul is left blind and is led into the city, where he spends three days without sight, food, or drink. This becomes a time of surrender, reflection, and inner transformation.

💡 Lesson: God sometimes allows seasons of stillness and weakness to prepare us for His greater purpose.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to embrace seasons where God humbles me in order to reshape my life?

- **Verses 10–14:** The Lord speaks to Ananias in a vision, calling him to go and minister to Saul. Though fearful because of Saul's reputation, Ananias listens to God's instruction.

💡 Lesson: Obedience to God may require stepping beyond fear and trusting His plan even when it feels uncomfortable.

🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God enough to obey Him even when I feel uncertain or afraid?

- **Verses 15–16:** God reveals that Saul is His chosen instrument to proclaim His name to the Gentiles, kings, and the people of Israel. He also declares that Saul will suffer for His name.

💡 Lesson: God's calling is rooted in His sovereign purpose. He can transform a life completely and use it for His glory.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to accept both the calling and the cost of following Christ faithfully?

- **Verses 17–19:** Ananias obeys, lays hands on Saul, and prays for him. Saul regains his sight, is filled with the Holy Spirit, and is baptised. His life is completely changed as he begins a new journey in Christ.

💡 Lesson: Transformation through Christ brings healing, renewal, and a new purpose. The Holy Spirit empowers a changed life.
🔍 Reflection: Have I fully embraced the new life and purpose that God has given me?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "I have chosen this man to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." – *Acts 9:15*

This verse reminds us that God calls and transforms individuals according to His divine purpose, and He uses every life surrendered to Him for His glory.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the powerful reminder that no one is beyond the reach of Your grace. Just as You transformed Saul, I ask that You continue to transform my heart, my thoughts, and my desires. Forgive me for the times I have resisted Your truth or relied on my own understanding instead of seeking Your will.

Lord Jesus, I surrender every area of my life to You. Help me to recognise Your voice and respond with humility and obedience. Remove anything within me that opposes Your purpose, and lead me into a deeper relationship with You. Let my life reflect the power of Your transforming grace and the reality of a heart fully devoted to You.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh and guide me daily. Give me courage to obey even when it is difficult, faith to trust Your plans, and strength to walk in the purpose You have prepared for me. Shape me into a vessel that honours You, and help me to live as a testimony of Your grace and power. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 9:1–19

Theme: Transformation Through Encounter and the Power of God's Grace

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart in Stillness*** Take a moment to quiet your thoughts and become aware of God's presence. Reflect on Saul, a man driven by zeal yet walking in spiritual blindness, suddenly confronted by the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Imagine the intensity of that moment, the light from heaven, the voice of Jesus, and the complete turning point of his life. Ask the Lord to soften your heart and make you open to His transforming power. Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal areas in your life that need surrender and renewal.

📖 ***Engage Deeply with the Word*** Slowly read **Acts 9:1–19**. Observe Saul's journey from persecution to surrender, from blindness to spiritual sight. Notice how God intervenes directly in his life and also uses Ananias as an instrument of grace and obedience. Reflect on the process of transformation, the role of humility, and the importance of responding to God's call. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to show how God can radically change any life for His purpose.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 9:3** "As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him." This moment reveals how God can interrupt our path with divine purpose. No one is beyond the reach of His power, and His light exposes truth and brings awakening.
- **Acts 9:4** "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Jesus identifies personally with His people. This shows that when believers suffer, Christ Himself is deeply aware and present in their pain.
- **Acts 9:6** "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." This verse highlights the beginning of surrender. Encountering Jesus leads to obedience, even when the next steps are not fully clear.
- **Acts 9:10** "In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision." God involves His people in His plans. Ananias represents faithful obedience, even when the assignment seems difficult or uncertain.

- **Acts 9:17** "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road… has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." This demonstrates the grace of acceptance and restoration. Saul is not only healed but also welcomed into the family of believers and filled with the Spirit.
- **Acts 9:18** "Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again." This symbolises both physical and spiritual transformation. God opens our eyes to truth when we respond to Him in humility.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God can transform any life, no matter the past.** Saul's story reminds us that no one is too far from God's grace or beyond His ability to redeem and use for His glory.
2. **An encounter with Jesus leads to surrender and change.** True transformation begins when we recognise His authority and respond in obedience.
3. **God often uses others in our journey.** Just as Ananias played a role in Saul's restoration, we are called to be instruments of encouragement, healing, and guidance in the lives of others.
4. **Obedience may require courage and trust.** Ananias had to overcome fear to follow God's instruction, reminding us that faith often involves stepping beyond comfort.
5. **Spiritual sight is a gift from God.** When we submit to Him, He removes blindness and helps us see His truth, purpose, and direction clearly.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 9:1 to 19 presents a powerful account of radical transformation through a personal encounter with Jesus. Saul, once a persecutor of believers, is confronted by the risen Christ and brought to a place of humility and surrender. Through God's intervention and the obedience of Ananias, Saul receives healing, the Holy Spirit, and a new purpose.

- This passage teaches that God's grace is greater than our past and that His calling can completely redirect our lives. It highlights the importance of obedience, humility, and community in the process of transformation. Above all, it reminds us that when we encounter Jesus, we are never the same again.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Have I truly allowed Jesus to transform every area of my life?
- Is there any spiritual blindness that I need God to remove?
- Am I willing to obey God even when His instructions challenge my comfort or understanding?
- How can I be a vessel of encouragement and restoration in someone else's life?

📖 Memory Verse

"I have chosen this man to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." – *Acts 9:15*

This verse reminds us that God calls and transforms individuals according to His divine purpose, and He uses every life surrendered to Him for His glory.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your transforming power that reaches even the hardest of hearts. I confess that there are areas in my life where I have resisted Your truth or walked in my own understanding. Forgive me and bring Your light into every part of my life.

Lord Jesus, I surrender myself to You. Just as You called Saul, call me into Your purpose and lead me in Your ways. Help me to respond with obedience and humility, trusting in Your plan even when I do not fully understand it.

Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see clearly and fill me with Your presence. Remove every form of spiritual blindness and guide me into truth. Use me as an instrument of Your love and grace in the lives of others. Strengthen me to walk faithfully in the calling You have placed upon my life, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 9:20–43

Theme: Bold Witness, Perseverance in Trials, & the Power of God at Work

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🙏 ***Set Your Heart Before the Lord*** Come into God's presence with a willing and attentive heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet every distraction and prepare you to receive His truth. In this passage, we witness the immediate transformation of Saul and the continued ministry of Peter, both marked by boldness, opposition, and divine power. Invite the Lord to teach you how to live courageously for Him and to trust His work through every season of growth and challenge.

Introduction & Background

After Saul's dramatic encounter with Jesus, his life is completely changed. The one who once persecuted believers now begins to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God. This sudden transformation amazes many and creates tension among those who knew his past. As Saul grows in faith and boldness, he also faces rejection and threats, forcing him to depend on God and the support of fellow believers.

At the same time, the focus shifts to Peter's ministry as he travels among the believers. Through him, God performs powerful miracles, bringing healing and even raising the dead. These events strengthen the church and lead many to turn to the Lord. This passage beautifully shows that God is actively building His church through transformed lives, faithful servants, and the demonstration of His power.

📖 ***Reflect Deeply on the Scriptures*** Slowly read **Acts 9:20–43**. Picture Saul boldly preaching in the synagogues, astonishing those who hear him. Observe the growing opposition and the ways God provides protection and encouragement through other believers. Then follow Peter's journey as he ministers with compassion and authority, bringing restoration and life. As you read, consider how God works through both proclamation and action to reveal His glory.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 20–22:** Saul immediately begins to preach that Jesus is the Son of God, confounding those who hear him because of his past. His understanding deepens, and his boldness increases as he proves that Jesus is the Messiah.

💡 Lesson: A true encounter with Jesus leads to immediate and visible transformation. Bold witness flows from a life that has been genuinely changed.

🔍 Reflection: Does my life reflect a transformation that points others to Christ?

- **Verses 23–25:** As Saul's influence grows, opposition rises, and there is a plot to kill him. The believers help him escape by lowering him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

💡 Lesson: Following Christ may bring opposition, but God provides protection and support through His people. Faithfulness does not remove challenges, but God sustains us through them.

🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God's protection and guidance when I face difficulties for my faith?

- **Verses 26–31:** Saul arrives in Jerusalem, but the disciples are afraid of him. Barnabas steps in, vouching for Saul and helping him gain acceptance. Saul then speaks boldly until further threats arise, leading to his departure. Meanwhile, the church experiences peace and growth, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

💡 Lesson: Encouragement and acceptance within the body of Christ are vital for spiritual growth. God uses people like Barnabas to open doors and build others up.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to encourage and support others in their journey of faith?

- **Verses 32–35:** Peter heals Aeneas, a man who had been paralysed for eight years. This miracle leads many people in the region to turn to the Lord.

💡 Lesson: God's power brings restoration and points people to Him. Miracles are not only acts of compassion but also testimonies that draw others to faith.

🔍 Reflection: Do I believe in God's power to bring healing and transformation today?

- **Verses 36–43:** Peter raises Tabitha, a woman known for her kindness and good works, back to life. This miracle becomes widely known and many believe in the Lord. Peter stays in Joppa, continuing his ministry.

💡 Lesson: A life devoted to serving others leaves a lasting impact, and God honours faithfulness. God's power over life and death reveals His authority and brings hope to many.

🔍 Reflection: Is my life marked by love, service, and a desire to glorify God in all I do?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." – *Acts 9:19b–20*

This verse highlights the immediacy of Saul's transformation and reminds us that a changed life naturally becomes a powerful testimony for Christ.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the transforming power of Your grace and for the example of boldness and faithfulness in this passage. Teach me to live a life that reflects true change and to boldly share the truth of who You are.

Lord Jesus, give me courage to stand firm in my faith even when I face opposition or uncertainty. Help me to trust in Your protection and to rely on the support of fellow believers. Shape my life so that it becomes a testimony of Your love and truth.

Holy Spirit, fill me with power to serve, encourage, and bring hope to others. Use me as an instrument of Your healing and grace. Strengthen me to walk in obedience and to reflect Christ in both word and action. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 9:20–43

Theme: Bold Witness, Perseverance in Trials, & the Power of God at Work

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🙏 ***Come Quietly Before the Lord*** Take a moment to quiet your heart and focus on God's presence. Reflect on the powerful transformation of Saul and the faithful ministry of Peter. Consider how God takes a life once opposed to Him and turns it into a bold witness for His truth. Picture Saul preaching with conviction and Peter moving among people with compassion and authority. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you embrace a life of bold faith, steady perseverance, and complete dependence on His power.
📖 ***Receive the Word with Attention*** Slowly read **Acts 9:20–43** again. Notice how Saul begins to proclaim Jesus immediately after his transformation and how his boldness grows despite opposition. Observe the role of believers who support and encourage him along the way. Then shift your focus to Peter's ministry and see how God works through him to bring healing, restoration, and life. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God's power works through surrendered lives to accomplish His purposes.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 9:20** "At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." This verse highlights the immediacy of Saul's transformation. A genuine encounter with Christ leads to a life that boldly declares His truth without delay.
- **Acts 9:22** "Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah." This shows the process of spiritual growth. As Saul deepens in understanding, his witness becomes stronger and more effective, revealing that God strengthens those who remain faithful.
- **Acts 9:25** "But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall." This moment reflects God's protection through community. Even in danger, God provides a way of escape and surrounds His servants with people who support His plan.

- **Acts 9:31** "Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened." This verse reveals the result of God's work. The church grows in strength, lives in reverence for the Lord, and increases in number through the encouragement of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 9:34** "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat."This demonstrates the authority of Jesus working through His servants. Healing becomes a testimony that points people directly to Christ and His power.
- **Acts 9:40** "Peter sent them all out of the room then he got down on his knees and prayed." This shows the dependence on God in moments of need. Before acting, Peter seeks the Lord, demonstrating that true power flows from prayer and intimacy with God.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **A transformed life becomes a bold witness.** Saul's immediate proclamation reminds us that when we truly encounter Jesus, our lives naturally testify of Him.
2. **Spiritual growth strengthens our impact.** As we grow in understanding and faith, our ability to share truth with clarity and confidence increases.
3. **God sustains us through challenges.** Opposition is part of the journey, but God provides protection, guidance, and support through His people.
4. **The church thrives through unity and the Holy Spirit.** When believers walk in reverence and encouragement, the community grows stronger and more fruitful.
5. **God's power is revealed through prayer and obedience.** Peter's ministry shows that miracles and transformation happen when we depend fully on God.
6. **A life of compassion and service glorifies God.** The healing of Aeneas and the raising of Tabitha reveal that God works through those who care deeply for others.

3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 9:20–43** presents a powerful picture of God at work through transformed lives and faithful servants. Saul's journey from persecutor to preacher demonstrates the immediate and ongoing impact of encountering Christ. Despite threats and challenges, he continues to grow in boldness and effectiveness.
- At the same time, Peter's ministry reveals the active power of God in the life of the church. Through healing and restoration, many come to faith, and the name of Jesus is lifted high. The church experiences growth, unity, and spiritual strength as believers walk in reverence and dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- This passage reminds us that God's work continues through those who are willing to be transformed, to persevere through trials, and to rely completely on His power. True impact comes not from human ability but from a life surrendered to God.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Is my life a clear testimony of transformation through Jesus?
- Am I growing in my understanding and boldness in sharing my faith?
- Do I trust God to sustain me through opposition or challenges?
- Am I living in a way that strengthens and encourages others in the faith?
- Do I depend on prayer and the Holy Spirit in every area of my life?

📖 Memory Verse

> "Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God." – *Acts 9:19b–20*

This verse highlights the immediacy of Saul's transformation and reminds us that a changed life naturally becomes a powerful testimony for Christ.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a grateful heart, humbled by the power of Your grace that transforms lives completely. Thank You for the testimony of Saul, whom You turned from a persecutor into a passionate

preacher of truth. Thank You that no life is too far gone, no heart too hardened, and no past too broken for Your redeeming love. You are the God who meets us in our blindness and leads us into Your marvellous light.

Lord Jesus, I stand in awe of Your mercy and authority. Just as You called Saul by name and redirected his life, I ask that You would continue to call me deeper into Your purpose. Change my heart wherever it resists You. Remove every trace of pride, fear, or self reliance, and replace it with a burning desire to follow You wholeheartedly. Give me the same passion, boldness, and urgency to live for You and to proclaim Your truth without hesitation.

Teach me, Lord, to persevere through trials just as Your servants did. When opposition arises or when the path becomes difficult, strengthen me to remain faithful. Help me to trust that You are always at work, even in seasons of uncertainty. Surround me with the right people who will encourage, support, and guide me in my walk with You.

Holy Spirit, Fill me afresh with Your power and presence. Open my eyes to see clearly, just as Saul's eyes were opened. Transform my thinking, renew my spirit, and lead me daily in truth. Let my life reflect genuine change, not just in words but in actions, attitudes, and desires.

Just as You worked through Peter to bring healing, restoration, and hope, I ask that You would also use me as an instrument of Your grace. Give me a heart of compassion to serve others faithfully. Let my life bring encouragement to the weary, healing to the broken, and hope to those who are searching. May Your power be evident through my obedience and my dependence on You.

Father, shape my life so that it becomes a living testimony of Your transforming power. Let my journey reflect Your glory, just as Saul's life did. Help me to follow You with unwavering devotion, with vigour, passion, and deep love. May I never grow complacent, but continually seek to know You more and to make You known. I surrender my life completely into Your hands. Lead me, use me, and transform me for Your purposes. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 10:1–23

Theme: Divine Preparation, Breaking Barriers, and God's Plan for All

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🙏 ***Quiet Your Spirit Before the Lord*** Come into the presence of God with a calm and surrendered heart. In this passage, we see how God carefully prepares hearts and removes barriers that stand in the way of His purpose. Reflect on how He is working not only in visible ways but also behind the scenes, arranging circumstances and guiding lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to make you sensitive to His voice and willing to follow wherever He leads, even when it challenges your understanding.

Introduction & Background

As the message of Jesus continues to spread, God begins to reveal more clearly that His salvation is for all people, not limited by background, culture, or tradition. This passage introduces Cornelius, a Roman centurion who lives a life marked by reverence for God, generosity, and consistent prayer. Though he does not yet fully know the gospel, his heart is open and ready to receive truth.

At the same time, Peter is being prepared by God in a deeply personal way. Through a vision, God begins to challenge his long held understanding about what is clean and unclean. This is not only about food but about people and the boundaries that had previously separated them. God is teaching Peter that His grace reaches beyond human limitations and that no one is outside His plan.

This moment is significant because it shows how God works on both sides of a situation. While Cornelius is being prepared to receive the message, Peter is being prepared to deliver it. God brings them together at the right time, revealing His heart for all nations and His desire to break every barrier that separates people from Him.

📖 ***Approach the Scripture with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 10:1–23**. Picture Cornelius in prayer, faithfully seeking God, and receiving a clear message from an angel. Then imagine Peter in a time of prayer, receiving a vision that challenges his thinking. Notice how God repeats His message to

ensure clarity and how the Holy Spirit guides each step. Observe how both men respond with obedience, even when they do not fully understand what lies ahead. As you read, reflect on how God prepares hearts, removes barriers, and leads His people into His greater purpose.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–6:** Cornelius is introduced as a devout man who fears God, gives generously, and prays regularly. An angel appears to him, affirming that his prayers and acts of kindness have come before God and instructing him to send for Peter.

💡 Lesson: God sees and honours sincere seekers. A heart that truly seeks Him, even with limited understanding, is never ignored.

🔍 Reflection: Is my life marked by consistent prayer, reverence, and a genuine desire to know God more deeply?

- **Verses 7–8:** Cornelius responds immediately by sending trusted men to find Peter, explaining everything to them clearly.

💡 Lesson: Obedience is an essential response to God's guidance. When God speaks, a faithful heart acts with trust and clarity.

🔍 Reflection: Do I respond promptly when God leads me, or do I delay because of uncertainty or doubt?

- **Verses 9–16:** Peter goes up to pray and receives a vision of a sheet filled with various animals. When he is told to eat, he resists because of his understanding of what is clean and unclean. God repeats the instruction, teaching him not to call anything impure that God has made clean.

💡 Lesson: God breaks barriers and reshapes our understanding. His truth often challenges our traditions and expands our perspective to align with His heart.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to let God change my thinking, especially in areas where I may hold limiting views about others?

- **Verses 17–20:** While Peter is still reflecting on the vision, the men sent by Cornelius arrive. The Holy Spirit instructs Peter to go with them without hesitation.

💡 Lesson: God confirms His direction and leads step by step. When we remain attentive, He connects the pieces of His plan at the right time.

🔍 Reflection: Do I recognise the ways God confirms His guidance in my life, and am I willing to follow without hesitation?

- **Verses 21–23:** Peter meets the men, listens to their explanation, and welcomes them into the house. He prepares to go with them the next day, stepping into a new and unfamiliar situation.

💡 Lesson: Obedience often requires stepping beyond comfort and embracing new people and opportunities. God calls us to reflect His inclusive love.

🔍 Reflection: Am I open to the people and opportunities God brings into my life, even when they challenge my comfort or expectations?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." – *Acts 10:15*

This verse reminds us that God's grace reaches beyond human boundaries and calls us to see others through His perspective.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are a God who prepares hearts and works with perfect wisdom and timing. Just as You saw the sincerity of Cornelius and guided Peter step by step, help me to live with a heart that seeks You daily in prayer and obedience. Make me sensitive to Your voice and ready to respond whenever You lead, even when I do not fully understand Your ways.

Lord Jesus, thank You for breaking every barrier and showing that Your love is for all people. Change my heart where it needs to be changed and remove every wrong mindset or limitation within me. Teach me to see others through Your eyes and to walk in love, humility, and truth. Help me to follow You with courage and to embrace the purpose You have for my life.

Holy Spirit, guide me in every step and align my life with God's will. Prepare me for the plans You have set before me and use me as a vessel of Your grace. Help me to trust Your direction, walk in obedience, and be open to the people and opportunities You bring into my path. May my life reflect Your truth and bring glory to Your name. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 10:1–23

Theme: Divine Preparation, Breaking Barriers, and God's Plan for All

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🙏 ***Draw Near with a Listening Heart*** Take a quiet moment to come before the Lord with humility and openness. Reflect on how God works in both visible and unseen ways to prepare hearts and align circumstances. Picture Cornelius in prayer, sincerely seeking God, and Peter on the rooftop, being gently challenged and transformed in his understanding. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you become more aware of His voice and more willing to respond with obedience, even when His leading stretches your comfort or expectations.

📖 ***Receive the Word with Reverence*** Slowly read **Acts 10:1–23** again. Observe how God initiates His plan by speaking to Cornelius and then prepares Peter through a repeated vision. Notice the careful timing as both men are guided step by step. Reflect on how God removes barriers and brings people together for His purpose. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God is actively working in your life and in the lives of others around you.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 10:2** "He and all his family were devout and God fearing. He gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly." This verse highlights a life of sincere devotion. Cornelius demonstrates that a heart that seeks God through prayer and generosity is noticed by Him.
- **Acts 10:4** "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God." This shows that God values and remembers acts of faith and kindness. Nothing done with a sincere heart goes unnoticed before Him.
- **Acts 10:13,15** "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat." and "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." These words reveal how God challenges human understanding. He teaches Peter to see beyond traditional boundaries and align with His greater purpose.
- **Acts 10:19–20** "The Spirit said to him, 'Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with

them.'" This highlights the clear and personal guidance of the Holy Spirit. God leads with clarity when we are attentive and willing to follow.

- **Acts 10:23** "Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests." This reflects a change in heart and action. Peter begins to step beyond cultural barriers and respond with openness and acceptance.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God prepares hearts on both sides of His plan.** While one person is seeking, another is being prepared to respond. God's work is always intentional and complete.
2. **A sincere and seeking heart matters to God.** Cornelius shows that God responds to those who earnestly desire Him, even before they fully understand His truth.
3. **God challenges and reshapes our perspectives.** Like Peter, we must be willing to let go of limiting beliefs and embrace God's wider purpose.
4. **Obedience often requires stepping beyond comfort.** Welcoming others and following God's leading may challenge us, but it opens the way for His work to be fulfilled.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 10:1–23** reveals how God carefully prepares both Cornelius and Peter for a significant moment in the expansion of the gospel. Through prayer, visions, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, God aligns their lives and removes barriers that once separated people.
- This passage teaches that God's plan is inclusive and intentional. He works in the hearts of those who seek Him and calls His people to participate in His mission. As Peter begins to understand God's perspective, he takes the first steps toward embracing a broader vision of God's grace.
- It reminds us that obedience, sensitivity to the Spirit, and a willingness to change are essential in fulfilling God's purpose. When we trust His leading, He brings people together and accomplishes His

work in powerful ways.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I living a life that sincerely seeks God through prayer and devotion?
- Am I open to God changing my understanding and challenging my perspectives?
- Do I recognise and respond to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in my daily life?
- Am I willing to step beyond my comfort to be part of God's greater plan?

📖 Memory Verse

"Do not call anything impure that God has made clean." – *Acts 10:15*

This verse reminds us that God's grace reaches beyond human boundaries and calls us to see others through His perspective.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are always at work, preparing hearts and guiding lives according to Your perfect plan. Help me to live with a sincere and seeking heart like Cornelius, desiring to know You more each day.

Lord Jesus, teach me to see others as You see them. Remove every barrier, prejudice, or limitation within me that does not reflect Your love. Help me to walk in obedience and to follow You with humility and faith, even when it challenges my understanding.

Holy Spirit, guide me in every step and make me sensitive to Your leading. Help me to recognise Your voice and respond without hesitation. Shape my heart, renew my mind, and use my life to be part of Your greater purpose.

Gracious God, I trust that You are working in ways I cannot always see. Align my life with Your will and bring divine opportunities for me to serve and share Your truth. Strengthen me to walk in obedience, to trust Your timing, and to reflect Your love to all people. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 6 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: Transformed Lives, Bold Witness, and God's Sovereign Preparation

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Throughout this week we have journeyed through Acts chapter 9 verse 1 to Acts chapter 10 verse 23, witnessing the transforming power of an encounter with Jesus and the careful way God prepares hearts for His greater purpose. In Acts chapter 9 verses 1 to 19, Saul's life is radically changed as he encounters the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. The one who once persecuted believers is brought to a place of surrender, humility, and dependence on God. Through the obedience of Ananias, Saul receives healing, the Holy Spirit, and a new calling. This moment reveals that no life is beyond God's reach and that His grace has the power to completely transform a heart.

In Acts chapter 9 verses 20 to 43, we see the immediate impact of Saul's transformation as he begins to boldly proclaim Jesus as the Son of God. Despite facing suspicion and opposition, he grows stronger in faith and continues to witness with courage. At the same time, Peter's ministry demonstrates the ongoing power of God at work through His servants. Through healing and restoration, lives are changed and many turn to the Lord. This passage reminds us that a transformed life becomes a powerful testimony and that God works through those who remain faithful and obedient.

In Acts chapter 10 verses 1 to 23, we witness God's sovereign preparation as He brings together Cornelius and Peter. While Cornelius seeks God with sincerity, Peter is being prepared to see beyond his previous understanding. Through visions and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God removes barriers and reveals that His salvation is for all people. This passage shows that God works on both sides, preparing hearts and arranging circumstances so that His purposes are fulfilled at the right time.

As we rest today, we are reminded that God is actively at work in every season of our lives. He transforms hearts, strengthens His people to be bold witnesses, and prepares the way for His plans to unfold. The same God who changed Saul, worked through Peter, and prepared Cornelius is

working in us today. Our rest is found in trusting His power to transform, His strength to sustain, and His wisdom to guide us in every step we take.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your transforming power and for the way You work in every detail of life. As I rest in Your presence today, help me to trust that You are guiding my steps and preparing my heart for Your purpose. Teach me to surrender fully to You and to believe that You can change every area of my life.

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me to follow You and for the example of bold witness and faithful obedience shown in these passages. Forgive me for the times I have hesitated or allowed fear to limit my faith. Strengthen me to live with courage, to speak Your truth with boldness, and to reflect Your love in all that I do.

Holy Spirit, fill me afresh and make me sensitive to Your voice. Guide me in every decision and help me to recognise Your leading in both small and significant moments. Shape my heart to be open, teachable, and ready to follow wherever You lead. Remove every barrier within me and align my life with God's greater plan.

As I step into a new week, help me to walk in confidence that You are working in me and through me. Let my life be a testimony of Your grace, my faith be steadfast, and my obedience wholehearted. May I trust Your preparation, follow Your guidance, and rest in Your unfailing presence each day. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 1 - Monday - Acts 10:24–48

Theme: God Shows No Favouritism and the Gift of Salvation for All

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🙏 ***Prepare Your Heart in Stillness*** Come before the Lord with a quiet and surrendered heart. Set aside distractions and allow your spirit to become attentive to His voice. In this passage, we witness a powerful moment where God reveals that His grace is for all people, breaking every barrier. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to understand His inclusive love and to remove anything within you that limits how you see others. Invite Him to align your heart with His truth and His purpose.

Introduction & Background

Following God's preparation of both Cornelius and Peter, the moment of encounter now unfolds. Cornelius, a Gentile who sincerely seeks God, gathers his family and close friends in expectation. At the same time, Peter arrives, having been challenged by God to rethink his understanding of who can receive salvation.

This meeting marks a significant turning point in the early church. Until this moment, the gospel had primarily been shared among the Jewish people. Now, God clearly reveals that salvation through Jesus Christ is available to all, regardless of background or identity. Through Peter's message and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God confirms that He does not show favouritism but welcomes all who seek Him with sincere hearts.

📖 ***Engage with the Word Deeply*** Slowly read **Acts 10:24-48**. Picture Cornelius waiting with expectation, surrounded by those eager to hear from God. Imagine Peter entering the house, stepping into a new understanding of God's plan. Observe the conversation, Peter's message about Jesus, and the powerful moment when the Holy Spirit is poured out. As you read, reflect on how God reveals His heart and invites all people into His saving grace.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 24–26:** Peter arrives at Cornelius' house where many are gathered. Cornelius falls at Peter's feet in reverence, but Peter lifts

him up, reminding him that he is only a man.

💡 Lesson: True worship belongs to God alone. Even those used by God remain humble and point others to Him.

🔍 Reflection: Do I maintain humility and give all honour to God rather than to people?

- **Verses 27–29:** Peter enters the house and acknowledges that it is unusual for him to associate with Gentiles, but he recognises that God has shown him not to call anyone impure.

💡 Lesson: God breaks down barriers and changes our understanding. His truth calls us to see others through His perspective.

🔍 Reflection: Are there attitudes or boundaries in my heart that God wants to change?

- **Verses 30–33:** Cornelius shares his experience of the vision and expresses readiness to hear from God. He and those gathered are eager and attentive.

💡 Lesson: A prepared and expectant heart is ready to receive God's Word. God honours those who sincerely seek Him.

🔍 Reflection: Do I come before God with a heart that is ready and eager to listen?

- **Verses 34–36:** Peter begins to speak, declaring that God does not show favouritism but accepts people from every nation who fear Him and do what is right. He shares the message of peace through Jesus Christ.

💡 Lesson: God's salvation is for all people. His grace extends beyond every human boundary and reaches all who seek Him.

🔍 Reflection: Do I truly believe that God's love and salvation are available to everyone?

- **Verses 37–43:** Peter explains the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, proclaiming Him as Lord of all and the one through whom forgiveness of sins is received.

💡 Lesson: The gospel is centered on Jesus Christ. Faith in Him brings forgiveness and a restored relationship with God.

🔍 Reflection: Is my faith firmly rooted in the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done?

- **Verses 44–48:** While Peter is still speaking, the Holy Spirit comes upon all who hear the message. The believers are amazed as Gentiles receive the Spirit, and they are baptised.

💡 Lesson: God confirms His acceptance through the Holy Spirit. His grace is given freely to all who believe.
🔍 Reflection: Do I recognise and rejoice in the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism." – *Acts 10:34*

This verse reminds us that God's love and salvation are offered to all people without partiality or distinction. It calls us to reflect His heart by treating others with fairness, humility, and Christlike love.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for revealing that Your love and salvation are for all people. Help me to understand Your heart more deeply and to reflect Your grace in the way I see and treat others. Forgive me for any attitudes or thoughts that do not align with Your truth.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the source of peace and salvation for all. Help me to remain rooted in Your truth and to share Your message with humility and love. Teach me to see others through Your eyes and to welcome them as You have welcomed me.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and guide me in truth. Remove every barrier in my heart and help me to walk in obedience to God's will. Let my life reflect Your power and grace, and use me to bring others into a relationship with You. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 2 - Tuesday - Acts 10:24–48

Theme: God Shows No Favouritism and the Gift of Salvation for All

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🙏 ***Come Before God with an Open Heart*** Take a moment to quiet your mind and focus on the presence of God. Reflect on the powerful meeting between Peter and Cornelius, where God reveals His heart for all people. Picture Cornelius waiting with expectation, gathering others to hear from God, and Peter stepping into a new understanding of God's plan. Ask the Lord to open your heart to receive His truth and to remove anything that limits your view of His grace.

📖 ***Engage Deeply with the Word*** Slowly read **Acts 10:24-48**. Observe the humility of Peter and the readiness of Cornelius and his household. Notice how Peter begins to understand that God does not show favouritism and boldly shares the message of Jesus. Reflect on the moment when the Holy Spirit is poured out on all who hear the message. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal the depth of God's grace and His desire to reach every person.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 10:25-26** "As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. But Peter made him get up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man myself.'" This moment highlights humility and proper worship. Peter redirects honour to God, reminding us that all glory belongs to Him alone.
- **Acts 10:28** "God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean." This verse reveals a transformed understanding. God teaches Peter to see people through His perspective, breaking cultural and spiritual barriers.
- **Acts 10:33** "Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." This reflects a heart that is ready and eager to receive. God works powerfully where there is openness and expectation.
- **Acts 10:34-35** "God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right." This declaration reveals the inclusive nature of God's salvation. His grace

extends to all who come to Him with sincere hearts.

- **Acts 10:44** "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message." This shows that God Himself confirms His Word. The Holy Spirit moves freely and powerfully when hearts are ready to receive.
- **Acts 10:47** "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." This demonstrates that God's acceptance is complete. What God has done cannot be denied or limited by human boundaries.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. **God sees beyond human boundaries.** He calls us to look at people through His eyes and to embrace His love for all without limitation.
2. **A prepared heart is ready to receive God's truth.** Like Cornelius and his household, openness and expectation allow God to work powerfully.
3. **Humility keeps us aligned with God's purpose.** Like Peter, we must remember that we are servants, and all glory belongs to God alone.
4. **The gospel is for everyone.** Salvation through Jesus is not limited by culture, background, or status but is available to all who believe.
5. **The Holy Spirit confirms and empowers God's work.** When hearts are open, He moves freely, bringing transformation and assurance.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- Acts 10:24 to 48 reveals a defining moment in the early church as God clearly shows that His salvation is for all people. Through the meeting of Peter and Cornelius, God breaks down long standing barriers and reveals His inclusive plan. Peter's understanding is transformed, and he boldly proclaims the message of Jesus to those who are ready to receive.
- As the Holy Spirit is poured out on the Gentiles, God confirms that they are fully accepted. This moment marks a significant expansion of the gospel and demonstrates that no human boundary can limit God's grace.

- This passage teaches that God's love is universal, His grace is available to all, and His Spirit moves wherever hearts are open. It calls believers to live with humility, openness, and a willingness to embrace God's greater purpose.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I truly believe that God's love and salvation are for all people without exception?
- Are there any attitudes or assumptions in my heart that limit how I see others?
- Do I come before God with a heart that is ready and eager to receive His Word?
- Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to work freely in my life and through me?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism." – *Acts 10:34*

This verse reminds us that God's love and salvation are offered to all people without partiality or distinction. It calls us to reflect His heart by treating others with fairness, humility, and Christlike love.

🙏 **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that Your love and salvation are for all people. Forgive me for the times I have limited Your grace in my thinking or allowed wrong attitudes to shape how I see others. Help me to see with Your eyes and to reflect Your heart in all that I do.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of salvation that is freely given to all who believe. Help me to live with humility and to share Your truth with love and boldness. Teach me to welcome others as You have welcomed me and to walk in obedience to Your calling.

Holy Spirit, fill me with Your presence and guide me in truth. Remove every barrier within me and help me to be open to Your work. Use my life to bring others to You and to reflect Your grace and power. Strengthen me to walk faithfully and to be part of Your greater purpose. In Jesus name, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 3 - Wednesday - Acts 11:1–30

Theme: God's Grace for All, and the Growth of the Church

🙏 ***Draw Near with a Teachable Spirit*** Come into the presence of God with a humble and receptive heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet your thoughts and help you listen with openness. In this passage, we see how God brings understanding, unity, and growth among His people. Reflect on how He helps believers move beyond misunderstanding into acceptance of His greater plan. Invite the Lord to make your heart teachable and willing to embrace His truth, even when it challenges your previous understanding.

Introduction & Background

Following the powerful events in Caesarea, news spreads among the apostles and believers that Gentiles have received the Word of God. This creates concern and questioning among those who still hold to earlier traditions and expectations. Peter is then called to explain his actions, recounting the vision and the work of the Holy Spirit that led him to minister to Cornelius and his household.

As Peter shares his experience, the believers begin to understand that God Himself has initiated this work. What begins as questioning turns into acceptance and praise, as they recognise that salvation has been extended to the Gentiles.

The passage then shifts to the continued growth of the church. As believers spread to different regions, they preach the message of Jesus, and many come to faith. Barnabas and Saul are brought into this growing work, teaching and strengthening the believers. The chapter concludes with a beautiful expression of unity and generosity, as the disciples respond to a need with practical support. This passage reveals how God not only expands His church but also unites His people in understanding, purpose, and love.

📖 ***Reflect on the Word with Attention*** Slowly read **Acts 11:1-30**. Observe how Peter carefully explains what God has done and how the believers respond. Notice the shift from questioning to acceptance and

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praise. Then follow the spread of the gospel to new regions and the growth of the church in Antioch. See how Barnabas encourages the believers and how Saul joins in teaching. As you read, reflect on how God brings unity, growth, and purpose among His people.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–3:** The apostles and believers hear that Gentiles have received the Word of God, and some question Peter's actions in associating with them.

💡 Lesson: New movements of God may challenge existing understanding. Questions often arise when God expands beyond familiar boundaries.
🔍 Reflection: Am I open to God working in ways that may challenge my expectations?

- **Verses 4–17:** Peter explains the vision, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and how the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit just as the believers had. He recognises that this was God's work and not his own decision.

💡 Lesson: God confirms His will clearly and consistently. When He works, He provides understanding through His Spirit and His actions.
🔍 Reflection: Do I take time to discern and recognise God's work before forming conclusions?

- **Verse 18:** When the believers hear Peter's explanation, they have no further objections and praise God, acknowledging that He has granted repentance that leads to life even to the Gentiles.

💡 Lesson: True understanding leads to unity and worship. When God's truth is revealed, hearts shift from resistance to acceptance. This moment is significant because it shows that the church is learning to align with God's heart rather than holding onto human limitations.
🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to change my perspective when God reveals His truth clearly?

- **Verses 19–21:** Believers who were scattered continue to spread the message, and some begin to share the gospel with Gentiles. Many people believe and turn to the Lord.

💡 Lesson: The gospel continues to grow when believers faithfully share it. God works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary results.

This shows that God's plan extends through everyday obedience, not just through prominent leaders.

🔍 Reflection: Am I actively sharing my faith wherever God has placed me?

- **Verses 22–24:** Barnabas is sent to Antioch and encourages the believers to remain true to the Lord. Many more people are brought to faith.

💡 Lesson: Encouragement strengthens faith and helps believers remain steadfast. God uses faithful individuals to build and support others. Barnabas plays a vital role in nurturing growth, showing that spiritual maturity requires ongoing support.

🔍 Reflection: Do I encourage others to remain strong in their faith?

- **Verses 25–26:** Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch, and together they teach the believers for a year. The disciples are first called Christians in Antioch.

💡 Lesson: Teaching and discipleship are essential for spiritual growth. A strong foundation in truth shapes identity and community. This marks a defining moment where believers are identified by their relationship with Christ.

🔍 Reflection: Am I committed to growing in my understanding of God's Word?

- **Verses 27–30:** A prophecy about a coming famine leads the disciples to respond with generosity, sending help to those in need.

💡 Lesson: Genuine faith expresses itself through love and practical care for others. Unity in the church is demonstrated through generosity. This act of giving reflects the maturity of the church as it lives out the teachings of Christ in action.

🔍 Reflection: Am I willing to support and care for others in times of need?

📖 **Memory Verse**

"So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." – Acts 11:18

This verse reminds us that God's salvation is for all people and that His grace extends beyond every boundary.

🙏 Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are a God who reveals truth and brings understanding to Your people. Thank You for showing that Your grace is not limited, but extends to all who seek You with a sincere heart. As I reflect on this passage, help me to align my heart with Yours. Remove any misunderstanding, pride, or limitation within me that prevents me from fully embracing Your will. Teach me to be humble, teachable, and willing to grow as You reveal more of Your truth.

Lord Jesus, thank You for building Your church and for including me in Your greater purpose. Help me to remain faithful in every season, whether in times of growth, change, or uncertainty. Give me a heart that encourages others, just as Barnabas did, and a desire to grow deeper in Your Word. Strengthen me to stand firm in faith and to live in a way that reflects Your love and truth. Let my life be a testimony that points others to You.

Holy Spirit, guide me daily and give me discernment to recognise Your work around me. Help me to respond with obedience and not resistance. When You challenge my understanding, give me the grace to accept and follow Your leading. Shape my heart so that I may walk in unity with other believers, supporting and uplifting them with love and sincerity.

Gracious God, teach me to live out my faith not only in words but also in action. Give me a generous and compassionate heart that is willing to care for others in their time of need. Help me to be sensitive to opportunities to serve and to reflect Your kindness in practical ways. May my life contribute to the growth, unity, and strength of Your church.

As I continue this journey, help me to trust that You are working in and through me. Let my faith be steadfast, my heart be open, and my life be fully surrendered to Your purpose. May I rejoice in Your work, walk in Your truth, and reflect Your love each day. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 4 - Thursday - Acts 11:1–30

Theme: God's Grace for All, and the Growth of the Church

🙏 ***Settle Your Heart in God's Presence*** Take a quiet moment, lay aside distractions and come with a humble and teachable spirit. Reflect on how God works patiently among His people, leading them from misunderstanding into clarity and unity. Picture Peter standing before the believers, explaining what God has done, and hearts slowly turning from questioning to praise. Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to receive truth and to align your thoughts with God's greater purpose.

📖 ***Reflect Carefully on the Scriptures*** Slowly read **Acts 11:1-30** again. Notice how the believers initially struggle to understand what God has done among the Gentiles. Observe Peter's careful explanation and the way he points to God's work rather than his own actions. Then focus on the turning point where the believers accept and glorify God. Continue reading to see how the gospel spreads, how the church grows in Antioch, and how believers express their faith through encouragement, teaching, and generosity. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God builds unity and strengthens His church.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 11:3** "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them." This verse reflects the concern and misunderstanding among the believers. It shows how deeply rooted perspectives can create barriers to accepting God's wider plan.
- **Acts 11:17** "Who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" Peter recognises that God Himself has acted. This highlights humility and submission to God's authority above personal opinion.
- **Acts 11:18** "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." This is a key turning point where the believers move from questioning to acceptance and praise. It reveals that true understanding leads to unity and worship.
- **Acts 11:21** "The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord." This verse shows the active presence of God in the spread of the gospel. Growth happens when

God's power works through willing people.

- **Acts 11:23** "He was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts." Barnabas encourages the believers to stay faithful. This reflects the importance of strengthening others in their walk with God.
- **Acts 11:26** "The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." This marks a defining identity for believers. Their lives so clearly reflected Christ that they were recognised by Him.
- **Acts 11:29** "The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea." This demonstrates practical love and unity. Faith is expressed through generosity and care for others.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. God's truth may challenge our understanding, but it leads us into greater unity when we accept it with humility.
2. True spiritual maturity is seen when we recognise God's work and align ourselves with His will rather than resisting it.
3. The growth of the church is the result of God's hand working through faithful and obedient believers.
4. Encouragement and teaching are essential for strengthening faith and helping others remain steadfast.
5. Our identity as believers is shaped by how closely we follow Christ and reflect His character in our daily lives.
6. Genuine faith expresses itself through love, generosity, and practical care for others.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 11:1-30** shows how God leads His people into a deeper understanding of His plan and brings unity among them. What begins as questioning and uncertainty is transformed into acceptance and praise as the believers recognise that God has extended His grace to all people. The chapter also reveals the continued growth of the church as the gospel spreads beyond familiar boundaries. In Antioch, believers are strengthened through encouragement and teaching.

- The response of generosity at the end of the chapter demonstrates the maturity of the church as it lives out its faith in practical ways. This passage reminds us that God is building His church through unity, obedience, and love, and that His work continues wherever hearts are open to Him.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Am I willing to let God change my understanding when His truth challenges me?
- Do I recognise and rejoice in God's work in the lives of others?
- Am I actively encouraging and strengthening others in their faith?
- Does my life clearly reflect my identity in Christ?
- Am I expressing my faith through love and practical care for others?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life." – Acts 11:18

This verse reminds us that God's salvation is for all people and that His grace extends beyond every boundary.

🙏 **Personal Prayer of Commitment**

Heavenly Father, I thank You for revealing Your heart that Your grace is for all people and that Your plans are always greater than our understanding. Teach me to be humble and open when You challenge my thoughts, and help me to align my life with Your truth. Give me a heart that rejoices in Your work, celebrates the growth of others, and embraces unity within Your church. May I live in a way that reflects my identity in Christ, remaining faithful, teachable, and devoted to You in every season.

Lord Jesus, shape my life so that my faith is expressed not only in words but in action. Fill me with love, compassion, and a generous spirit to care for others and to strengthen those around me. Holy Spirit, guide me daily, help me to recognise Your work, and lead me to walk in obedience and unity. Use my life to contribute to the growth of Your church and to reflect Your grace to all people. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 5 - Friday - Acts 12:1–25

Theme: The Power of Prayer, His Ultimate Authority & Sovereign Protection

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🙏 ***Come Before God with a Surrendered Heart*** Take a quiet moment to come into God's presence. Lay aside every worry and distraction, and focus your heart on Him. In this passage, we see both intense persecution and miraculous deliverance. Reflect on how God remains in control even in the midst of suffering and uncertainty. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith so that you may trust Him fully, whether in times of trial or victory. Invite Him to deepen your dependence on God and your confidence in His power.

Introduction & Background

As the early church continues to grow, opposition intensifies. King Herod begins to persecute believers, leading to the death of James and the imprisonment of Peter. This marks a difficult and painful moment for the church, reminding us that following Christ may involve suffering and loss.

Yet even in this dark situation, the church does not lose hope. Instead, believers turn to God in earnest prayer. While Peter is held under heavy guard, the church is united in seeking God's intervention. What follows is a powerful demonstration of God's sovereignty as He miraculously delivers Peter.

The chapter concludes with a striking contrast. While God rescues His servant, King Herod, who exalts himself, faces judgment. The passage ends with the continued growth of the Word of God, showing that nothing can stop God's purpose. This chapter reveals that God is both protector and judge, working powerfully in every situation.

📖 ***Reflect on the Word with Focus*** Slowly read **Acts 12:1–25**. Observe the intensity of the persecution and the grief of the believers. Notice how the church responds with prayer rather than despair. Picture Peter in prison and the miraculous way God delivers him. Then consider the downfall of Herod and the continued spread of God's Word. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal God's power, justice, and faithfulness.

Explanation of the Passage

- **Verses 1–3:** Herod persecutes the church and has James put to death. Seeing that this pleases some people, he arrests Peter as well.

💡 Lesson: Following Christ may involve suffering, and the world may oppose God's people. Faithfulness does not always prevent hardship. This reminds us that God's plan continues even when circumstances seem painful or unfair.

🔍 Reflection: Do I remain steadfast in my faith even when I face difficulties or opposition?

- **Verses 4–5:** Peter is placed under heavy guard in prison, but the church prays earnestly for him.

💡 Lesson: Prayer is a powerful response in times of crisis. When situations seem impossible, believers are called to seek God together. The unity of the church in prayer reflects deep trust in God's ability to intervene.

🔍 Reflection: Do I turn to prayer as my first response in difficult situations?

- **Verses 6–11:** Peter is miraculously freed by an angel of the Lord while guards remain unaware. He is led out of prison and realises that God has delivered him.

💡 Lesson: God has the power to deliver in unexpected and miraculous ways. Nothing can limit His ability to rescue His people. God's timing and methods may differ from our expectations, but His power is always perfect.

🔍 Reflection: Do I trust God to work beyond what I can see or understand?

- **Verses 12–17:** Peter goes to the house where believers are praying. At first, they struggle to believe that he has been freed, yet they rejoice when they see him.

💡 Lesson: God answers prayer even when our faith is imperfect. His faithfulness goes beyond our doubts. This moment reveals both human weakness and God's unwavering faithfulness.

🔍 Reflection: Do I truly expect God to answer when I pray?

- **Verses 18–19:** There is confusion among the guards, and Herod orders their execution.

💡 Lesson: Earthly power is limited and cannot stand against God's will. Human authority is ultimately subject to Him. This highlights the contrast

between human control and divine authority.
🔍 Reflection: Do I place my trust in God above all human systems and powers?

- **Verses 20–23:** Herod receives praise as if he were a god, but he is struck down because he does not give glory to God.

💡 Lesson: God alone deserves glory and honour. Pride and self exaltation lead to downfall. This serves as a warning that God opposes pride but honours humility.
🔍 Reflection: Do I give all glory to God in my life, or do I seek recognition for myself?

- **Verses 24–25:** Despite opposition, the Word of God continues to spread and grow. Barnabas and Saul return after completing their mission.

💡 Lesson: God's purpose cannot be stopped. His Word continues to advance regardless of circumstances. This ending reassures us that God's mission moves forward in every season.
🔍 Reflection: Do I trust that God is always at work, even when I cannot see it?

📖 **Memory Verse**

> "But while Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying to God for him." – *Acts 12:5*

This verse reminds us of the power of united and persistent prayer in the life of believers.

🙏 **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are sovereign over every situation, even in times of difficulty and uncertainty. Teach me to trust in Your power and to turn to You in prayer with faith and perseverance. Strengthen my heart to remain steadfast when I face challenges, and help me to believe that You are always at work, even when I cannot see it.

Lord Jesus, help me to walk in humility and give You all the glory in every circumstance. Holy Spirit, fill me with courage and faith to depend on You daily. Use my life for Your purpose, and let me remain faithful, prayerful, and confident in Your unfailing plan. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 6 - Saturday - Acts 12:1–25

Theme: The Power of Prayer, His Ultimate Authority & Sovereign Protection

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🙏 ***Quietly Reflect in God's Presence*** Take a moment to become still before the Lord and rest in His presence. Reflect on the events of this passage where suffering, prayer, deliverance, and judgment unfold together. Picture the early church facing fear and loss, yet choosing to seek God earnestly. Imagine Peter in prison and the quiet but powerful work of God bringing about his release. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your trust in God's power and to help you remain steadfast in faith through every situation.

📖 ***Receive the Word with a Listening Heart*** Slowly read **Acts 12:1–25** again. Notice the contrast between human authority and God's sovereignty. Observe how the church responds to crisis with prayer and how God responds with power. Reflect on Peter's deliverance, the reaction of the believers, and the downfall of Herod. As you read, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal how God works in both visible and unseen ways to accomplish His purpose.

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1. Verses to Review

- **Acts 12:2** "He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword." This verse reminds us that following Christ may involve real suffering and loss. The early church faced deep pain, yet their faith was not destroyed. Instead, it continued to grow stronger because it was rooted in God, not in circumstances.
- **Acts 12:5** "But while Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying to God for him." This shows the response of the believers in a time of crisis. Rather than giving in to fear, they turned to God with persistent and united prayer. Their dependence on God reflects a deep trust in His power and care.
- **Acts 12:7** "Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell." God's intervention often comes unexpectedly. In a place of darkness and confinement, His presence brings light and freedom. This reminds us that no situation is beyond His reach or control.

- **Acts 12:11** "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me." Peter recognises that his deliverance is entirely the work of God. This highlights the importance of trusting God's hand in every breakthrough and giving Him the glory.
- **Acts 12:15** "You are out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." This moment reveals the human tendency to doubt, even while praying. The believers were seeking God, yet they struggled to believe the answer when it came. It reminds us that God's faithfulness is not limited by our imperfect faith.
- **Acts 12:23** "Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down." This verse shows God's authority over all human power. Herod's pride and self exaltation lead to his downfall, reminding us that all glory belongs to God alone.
- **Acts 12:24** "But the word of God continued to spread and flourish." Despite persecution and opposition, God's purpose moves forward. His Word cannot be stopped, and His kingdom continues to grow in every circumstance.

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2. Life Lessons for Us Today

1. Faith does not remove suffering, but it anchors us through it. The early church experienced loss, yet they remained rooted in God and continued to trust Him.
2. Prayer is powerful and essential in every situation. When the church prayed together, they invited God's intervention and experienced His power in a real way.
3. God is able to deliver in ways beyond our understanding. Peter's release shows that God can work even in the most impossible circumstances.
4. Our faith may be imperfect, but God remains faithful. Even when the believers doubted, God still answered their prayers and fulfilled His purpose.
5. Pride leads to downfall, but humility honours God. Herod's life is a warning, while the church's dependence on God is an example to follow.

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6. God's purpose will always prevail. No opposition, authority, or circumstance can stop the growth of His Word and His kingdom.

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3. Summary & Key Points to Remember

- **Acts 12:1–25** presents a powerful contrast between human limitation and God's sovereignty. While the church faces persecution and loss, it responds with prayer and faith. God answers by delivering Peter in a miraculous way, demonstrating His power and care for His people.
- At the same time, the chapter shows the downfall of Herod, reminding us that earthly authority is temporary and subject to God. In contrast, God's Word continues to spread and grow, revealing that His purpose cannot be stopped.
- This passage teaches us to trust God in every situation, to remain faithful in prayer, and to recognise that He is always at work. It calls us to live with humility, confidence, and a deep trust in His sovereign plan.

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4. Personal Reflection Questions

- Do I turn to prayer as my first response in times of difficulty?
- Am I able to trust God even when I face loss or unanswered questions?
- Do I truly believe that God can work in impossible situations?
- Is there any area of pride in my life that I need to surrender to God?
- Am I confident that God's purpose is being fulfilled in my life?

📖 Memory Verse

"But while Peter was kept in prison, the church was earnestly praying to God for him." – *Acts 12:5*

This verse reminds us of the power of united and persistent prayer in the life of believers.

🙏 Personal Prayer of Commitment

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart that desires to trust You more deeply. Thank You for reminding me that You are sovereign over every situation, even when life feels uncertain or difficult. When I face challenges, loss, or questions that I cannot understand, help me to remain

anchored in the truth that You are still in control. Teach me to turn to You in prayer first, with faith and persistence, believing that You hear me and are working according to Your perfect will. Strengthen my heart to depend on You and not on my own understanding.

Lord Jesus, thank You for being my protector, my hope, and my deliverer. Just as You were with Peter in prison, I know that You are present with me in every circumstance. Help me to trust You even when I do not see immediate answers, and give me peace in knowing that Your timing is always perfect. Guard my heart from fear, doubt, and pride. Teach me to walk in humility and to give You all the glory in every breakthrough and every blessing. Let my life reflect a deep faith that rests securely in You.

Holy Spirit, fill me with boldness, perseverance, and unwavering faith. Help me to pray with sincerity and expectation, trusting that You are at work even when I cannot see it. Remove every trace of doubt and replace it with confidence in God's power. Guide me daily, strengthen me in moments of weakness, and remind me that nothing is impossible for God.

Gracious God, use my life for Your purpose and for the growth of Your kingdom. Help me to remain faithful in every season, whether in times of testing or times of joy. Let my life be a testimony of Your faithfulness, Your power, and Your grace. May I walk closely with You, trust You completely, and live in a way that honours You in all that I do. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Week 7 - Day 7 - Sunday

Theme: God's Sovereign Plan, Unstoppable Word, and a Life of Trust

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Throughout this week, we have journeyed through Acts chapter 10 verses 24 to 48, Acts chapter 11, and Acts chapter 12, witnessing the unfolding of God's greater plan beyond human boundaries. In Acts chapter 10 verses 24 to 48, Peter's encounter with Cornelius reveals a powerful truth that God shows no favouritism. As Peter shares the message of Jesus, the Holy Spirit is poured out on all who believe, confirming that salvation is for all people. This moment marks a turning point, as God breaks down long standing barriers and reveals His inclusive grace.

In Acts chapter 11, we see how the early believers come to understand and accept what God has done. What begins as questioning turns into praise as they recognise that God has granted repentance that leads to life to the Gentiles also. The church continues to grow as believers spread the gospel, encourage one another, and remain rooted in truth. In Antioch, a strong and vibrant community is formed, marked by teaching, unity, and a clear identity in Christ. Their faith is expressed not only in words but also through generosity and care for others.

In Acts chapter 12, the church faces intense persecution, yet we see the power of prayer and the sovereignty of God at work. While James is put to death, Peter is miraculously delivered from prison in response to the prayers of the believers. At the same time, Herod's pride leads to his downfall, reminding us that all authority belongs to God alone. Despite opposition, the Word of God continues to spread and grow, showing that nothing can hinder His purpose.

As we rest today, we are reminded that God is always at work, guiding His people, expanding His kingdom, and fulfilling His plans. He calls us to live with trust in His sovereignty, to remain faithful in prayer, and to embrace His heart for all people. The same God who broke barriers, united the church, and demonstrated His power is working in our lives today. Our rest is found in trusting Him, walking in obedience, and rejoicing in His unfailing purpose.

🙏 Prayer of Rest and Commitment

Heavenly Father, I come before You with a heart full of gratitude for all that You have revealed throughout this week. Thank You for showing me that Your grace knows no boundaries, that Your plans are perfect, and that Your Word continues to move forward with power. As I reflect on these passages, help me to rest in the truth that You are always at work, guiding, preparing, and accomplishing Your purpose in ways far beyond my understanding. Teach me to trust You fully and to surrender every part of my life into Your loving hands.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of salvation that is available to all and for the example of faithful servants who lived with boldness and obedience. Help me to reflect Your heart in the way I see others, to live without barriers, and to share Your truth with humility and love. Strengthen me to remain faithful in every season, whether in times of joy or difficulty. When I face challenges, remind me that You are near, that You are my strength, and that nothing can separate me from Your presence.

Holy Spirit, I ask You to fill me afresh with Your power and guidance. Make my heart sensitive to Your voice and ready to follow wherever You lead. Remove anything within me that resists Your will or limits my faith. Help me to grow in trust, to deepen my prayer life, and to depend on You in every situation. Shape my character so that my life reflects the truth of the gospel and the transforming power of Your presence.

Gracious God, as I enter a new week, help me to walk in unity with others, to encourage and strengthen those around me, and to live out my faith in practical ways. Give me a generous and compassionate heart that responds to the needs of others with love and sincerity. Let my life be a vessel through which Your grace flows, bringing hope, healing, and encouragement to those I encounter.

Father, I commit my life to You once again. Strengthen my faith, guide my steps, and keep me close to You in every moment. May I live with confidence in Your sovereignty, joy in Your presence, and a deep trust in Your unfailing plan. Let my life bring glory to You and be part of Your growing kingdom. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

DEDICATION

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Rev. M. M. Thomas

25th December 1925 – 1st January 1985

This devotional is lovingly dedicated to my late father, Rev. M. M. Thomas, a faithful servant of God who gave his entire life in devoted service to his Lord and Master. He was called to eternal glory in the early hours of 1st January 1985, barely an hour after presiding over the midnight Holy Communion service on New Year's Eve, a moment that perfectly reflected the man he was. He did not retire from the altar. He departed from it.

He lived only 59 years, yet within those years he served as Youth Secretary of the Mar Thoma Yuvajana Sakhyam for nearly seven years, leaving a deep and lasting mark on an entire generation of young people, many of whom went on to become ordained priests and church leaders. He then answered a pioneering call as a missionary to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for three years, establishing congregations at great personal cost to his family. He later pioneered congregations across the Middle East and poured himself out in selfless pastoral care until his very last breath.

When he left this world, his four children were still studying and his wife was a homemaker with no independent income. Yet he entrusted them entirely into the hands of the God he had served so faithfully. That trust was not misplaced. God proved Himself faithful, meeting every need, sustaining the family with dignity, and never allowing them to be put to shame before anyone. His legacy continues as all his children and grandchildren serve the Lord in their own capacity in different parts of the world (Australia, India, Middle East, UK and US).

"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God
who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him
and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations." — Deuteronomy 7:9

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